Lord [illegible]

Mr. Cherry

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THE

MODERN PLUTARCH;

OR,

Universal Biography:

INCLUDING

Authentic Memoirs

OF

DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC CHARACTERS

OF ALL NATIONS, LIVING AND RECENTLY DECEASED,

WITH

ORIGINAL PORTRAITS.

VOL. IV.

UNDER THE IMMEDIATE DIRECTION OF SEVERAL LITERARY GENTLEMEN.

"Hominem pagina nostra sapit."

MARTIAL.

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PREFACE.

THE flattering approbation which THE MODERN PLUTARCH *has experienced, from some of the most distinguished judges of literature,** *would fully warrant its conductors in a farther extension of the work; but, not wishing to place it beyond the reach of the general reader, they, for a time, suspend their labours.*

Now that it is complete, THE MODERN PLUTARCH *may be regarded as a cheap epitome of general history, politics, science, and literature. By perusing the life of the Emperor of Russia, of Buonaparte, of the King of Prussia, of General Bennigsen, and of the Sultan Selim, the reader becomes amply acquainted with the present state of Europe, and with the great events which have convulsed the world, for some years past: by adverting to the memoirs of Pitt, Fox, Melville, Petty, Howick, Lauderdale, Sidmouth,*

* Mr. Blagdon, the editor of THE FLOWERS OF LITERATURE, for 1806, thus notices THE MODERN PLUTARCH: "Three volumes of this work have appeared, and reflect great credit upon their editors. Some of the articles which particularly struck us, were—a life of Bloomfield, the poet, treated in a style widely different from that of Capel Loft's meagre memoir; a sketch of Lord Nelson, the best we have ever seen; and a very spirited account of that gallant, but much injured officer, Sir Home Popham. *If* THE MODERN PLUTARCH *be distinguishable for one excellence more than another, it is for* THE CORRECTNESS OF ITS POLITICAL, MORAL, AND RELIGIOUS PRINCIPLES."

and

and Perceval, he acquires a store of political knowledge of a domestic nature: should he wish to mark the progess of our naval heroes, let him turn to the characters of Nelson, Hood, Duncan, Gardner, Sydney Smith, Popham, and Cochrane: if religion, literature, the arts, or science, engage his attention, he will find them duly honoured in the lives of Porteus, Horsley, Douglas, Barrington, Haweis, Hunter, and Hill; in those of Hayley, Pratt, Pye, Parr, Godwin, Sharpe, Sheridan, Mavor, Bloomfield, Opie, Smith, and Bigland; in those of Opie, Wilkie, Ward, Masquerier, Bartolozzi, and Heath; and in those of Banks, Jenner, Darwin, Thornton, &c.: nor will he find the stage to have been neglected, in the names of Kemble, Cooke, Bannister, Holman, Dibdin, Cherry, Smith, Young, Billington, and Incledon. These, with many others of a miscellaneous description, hold forth a copious fund of instruction, information, and amusement.

In presenting to the public, within the circumscribed space of four *volumes, the lives of* nearly one hundred *of the most distinguished characters of the age, forming the cheapest and most valuable assemblage of contemporary biography which has ever appeared, the editors of* THE MODERN PLUTARCH, *have accomplished their object;——that of exhibiting a faithful* Picture of the Times, *and an estimable record of public and private worth.——Success is not constantly an attendant upon merit; but merit is generally the precursor of success; and, having been so fortunate as to obtain the latter, they are willing to believe, that their humble efforts have been found to possess a due portion of the former.*

MODERN

PLUTARCH.

THE RIGHT HONORABLE

SPENCER PERCEVAL,

CHANCELLOR OF HIS MAJESTY'S EXCHEQUER, &c. &c.

WE have much pleasure in presenting to our readers a few brief particulars of Mr. Perceval, a gentleman who has, for some time past, made so conspicuous and so respectable a figure in the public affairs of his country.

It has been justly observed, that a call to the English bar pre-supposes a liberal education, as well as considerable attainments; and an eminence at it is sure, sooner or later, to lead to fortune, and even to hereditary honours. The student's gown gives way to that of the barrister; the stuff to the silken robe; and that in its turn, in due process of time, is frequently exchanged for the judge's ermine. Indeed, a large and respectable increase to the aristocracy has been derived from the law; and there is every reason to suppose that that profession, in consequence of its

wealth and influence, will continue to add to the numbers. To the law we have certainly been indebted for some of our greatest statesmen; and, although lawyers do not at all times prove the best senatorial orators, their habits of study are such as can scarcely fail of leading them to the formation of correct ideas.

The Right Honorable Spencer Perceval, to whom our attention is at present drawn, has represented the borough of Northampton during four successive parliaments. He was born on the 1st of November 1762, and is the youngest surviving son of the late Earl of Egmont, by the Baroness Arden, his second wife; and, consequently, is brother to John James, the present Earl of Egmont, and also to the present Lord Arden. The late Baroness Arden was sister to the late Earl of Northampton; so that Mr. Perceval is not to be regarded as a mere political adventurer, without family or connexions. A charge of this nature, which the ex-ministers, in their uncontrolable bursts of disappointed ambition, have thought proper to make against his Majesty's present servants, comes, indeed, with a peculiarly ill grace from them;—from a set of men, most of whom may be regarded as adventurers in every sense of the word.

Mr. Perceval had the misfortune of losing his father when he was only ten years old; but he enjoyed the protecting care of his maternal parent for some years longer. Having imbibed the rudiments of classical learning, he removed to Trinity-College, Cambridge, where he completed his education, and took the degree of M.A. He was afterwards one of the two counsel of the university.

Having

Having entered at one of the inns of court, Mr. Perceval was, in due time, called to the bar; and at first practised in the Court of King's Bench, but afterwards removed into the Chancery Court.

Being always, we believe, of a domestic turn, instead of wasting his days in riot, and his nights in dissipation, he entered somewhat early into the connubial state. He married, on the 10th of August, 1790, Miss Jane Wilson, daughter of the late General Sir Thomas Spencer Wilson, Bart. of Charleton, in Kent, by whom he has a family of several children.

This gentleman, as we have already seen, is not without some portion of family influence. His relation, the Earl of Northampton, is recorder of the town of Northampton; the duties of which are performed by Mr. Perceval, as his deputy.

As early as the year 1797, the subject of this memoir distinguished himself in parliament, by proposing some judicious amendments to Mr. Pitt's bill for punishing traitorous attempts to excite mutiny and sedition in the navy. This was the year, it will be recollected, when the mutineers, with delegate Parker at their head, produced so much alarm throughout the country.

In 1799, Mr. Perceval took an active part in the discussions which arose respecting the Union of Great Britain and Ireland; and, in the course of the same year, he was invested with a silk gown, as one of the King's Counsel, but without a patent of precedence.---In 1802, his forensic and senatorial celebrity having rapidly increased, he was appointed to the honorable office of Solicitor-general, a post which he held but a

short time; as, on the death of Lord Kenyon, when Sir James Law, now Lord Ellenborough, was raised to the bench, he succeeded that gentleman as Attorney-general. In the year 1802, Mr. Perceval also spoke in reply to Lord Temple, on the Navy Abuse Bill, very strenuously supporting that clause by which an enquiry was to be instituted into the conduct of prize-agents, a class of men over which the Board of Admiralty had not any control.---In 1803, he brought in a bill, the object of which was to introduce some new regulations into the office of Surveyor-general of his Majesty's woods and forests.

It was on the 23d of May, in the last-mentioned year, that one of the most important discussions was commenced in the House of Commons that had perhaps ever occurred. We allude to the debate upon the Negotiation-papers relative to the rupture of the Treaty of Amiens; which, consequently, involved the question of peace or war with France. It was from that discussion that the nation was led to expect a developement of the sentiments entertained by our greatest statesmen, with regard to one of the most momentous questions that was ever agitated in the supreme court of a nation; it was from that discussion that we were to form our ideas with regard to the exorbitant schemes of French ambition, and to learn the resources which Europe still possessed for the preservation of its liberties; it was in that discussion that we were to look for those reasonings by which the Addingtonian ministry were to vindicate their measures, and the uprightness of the British government, in the eyes of Europe, and of the world. Unfortunately,

nately, those expectations were all frustrated; for, owing to a partial, and most reprehensible preference of admission to the gallery, the regular newspaper reporters were excluded; and with the exception of some unconnected fragments, the whole of this important debate was lost. One of the most argumentative, the most impressive, the most brilliant speeches which Mr. Pitt ever made---a speech which occupied nearly two hours in delivery---was thus withholden from the world. The debate was resumed on the following evening. Mr. Fox rose at a very late hour, expressing his conviction, that, if the war were not prevented in time, certain and absolute destruction awaited the country. He then went into an exposition of the various charges contained in his Majesty's declaration, regarding it as a ministerial instrument, and the general conduct of ministers, relating to the negotiation; arguing therefrom, that, before he was convinced that a war was *necessary*, he must be convinced that it was *just*; and how was he to decide on the refusals, the subterfuges, the redress and reparation required, as set forth in the documents before the house, if he were not allowed to canvass the manner, the time, and propriety of making those demands which were insisted on by ministers? He therefore supported the amendment, which had been moved by Mr. Grey (now Lord Howick) which, he said, would keep the door to negociation something more open that was done by the proposed address.---Mr. Perceval, not exhausted by the fatigue of the evening, not overawed by the veteran, the imposing eloquence of Mr. Fox, ventured to oppose the sentiments of that accomplished statesman; and, actuated by that noble spirit of independence,

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and of the *amor patriæ*, by which he has been constantly distinguished, contended, that if an apologist for Buonaparte had been in the House, he could not have advanced arguments more to the purpose than those which had been used by the honorable gentleman. He concluded a speech of considerable length and animation, by declaring, that if ever there were a contest commenced on honorable principles, it was that which we were about to enter into; as there could be but one opinion on the question relative to the necessity of stopping the alarming increase of the power of so dangerous an enemy.

It was not only on political subjects, however, that Mr. Perceval displayed his talents in parliament. He opposed the Clergy Non-residence Bill, which was introduced by Sir William Scott, at considerable length. The professed object of the bill was, to repeal the laws which were then in force for giving power to informers to proceed against such of the members of the church as held farms, or did not reside at their respective parsonage-houses. Mr. Perceval opposed the bill, as one that was almost from beginning to end at variance with its title and avowed object; and animadverted with much force upon the partiality which is displayed in consequence of the numerous exceptions which arose out of it.

Early in the spring of 1804, Mr. Perceval spoke repeatedly on the Volunteer Bills; and shortly after, (March 29) he delivered himself in favor of Lord Hood's claims, respecting the prizes which had been taken at Toulon. He contended that it would be proper to give the full value of all the ships mentioned as having been captured and destroyed on that occasion.

After

After ten or eleven years, the claim, he observed, was now brought forward solely as a question referring to the King's liberality. The King thought that the whole amount ought to be granted; and such a recommendation from his Majesty would be a sufficient record of the fact.

On the 23d of April following, Mr. Perceval defended the conduct of ministers, when Mr. Fox brought forward his motion relative to the national defence.

On the memorable string of resolutions, moved by Mr. Whitbread (April 8, 1805) against Lord Melville, Mr. Perceval had the honor of being one of those who did not think it would be an act of *justice* to pronounce his lordship *guilty*, or to *punish* him, before he had been *tried*. He observed, that if it were a necessary alternative that the supposed delinquency should be punished then, or that it should escape altogether, the propriety of coming to some resolution, at the present moment, might be more reasonably insisted on. It was agreed on all hands, that an enquiry should take place; and, while there were such important grounds of enquiry, the House ought not to be called upon to *pronounce judgment*, when *conviction was so remote*, at the same time that farther enquiry could have no ill effect. On the 12th of June following, when the specific motion for the impeachment of Lord Melville was discussed, Mr. Perceval maintained the sentiments which he had formerly expressed on the subject.

In the month of May preceding, when Mr. Fox brought forward his motion for the emancipation of the Irish Catholics, the subject of this memoir contended, that the measure, if acceded to, would produce

duce the very reverse of the effect which was expected to result therefrom. That Mr. Perceval has not changed his opinion on this subject, is sufficiently evident from recent circumstances.

In the course of the last parliament, on the discussion of the merits of a petition relative to the Liskeard election, Mr. Perceval opposed the propositions of Messrs. Pitt and Addington, for a decision without the intervention of a committee; in which measure, as it was conceived to be most congenial with the Grenville act, he was supported by the vote of the House.

From the time, as we have already stated, of Lord Ellenborough's accession to the bench, until the lamented death of Mr. Pitt, Mr. Perceval sustained the arduous, and, in some respects, ungrateful office of attorney-general, with much credit to himself, and satisfaction to the country. At the period alluded to, he, in common with his colleagues, retired from office.

At the funeral of the illustrious son of Chatham, Mr. Perceval, to whom he had been much attached in private life, carried the banner of emblems; and, nearly at the same time, he subscribed the sum of fifty guineas, towards the erection of a statue to the memory of that distinguished patriot and transcendant statesman.

As a member of opposition, Mr. Perceval was a sharp and galling thorn in the side of the late ministry. He opposed them with much force, and, in the opinion of many well-informed men, with much justice, in the appointment of the Lord Chief Justice to a seat in the cabinet. The nomination of Lord Ellenborough, the nobleman immediately alluded to, was not indeed without pre-

cedent;

cedent; for Lord Mansfield, and, we believe, Lord Hardwicke, had been admitted under similar circumstances. Yet those precedents were insufficient to justify the measure, which can never be viewed but with extreme jealousy by the people of England; who know that all state prosecutions originate with the cabinet council, and very naturally suppose, that when the cabinet are called upon to decide on the propriety and expediency of such a prosecution, the opinion of the first judge in the realm will be received with something more than *deference*; it must indeed be, in a great measure, decisive. A judge, then, so situated, when afterwards sitting on the trial of the culprit, will not, cannot, have his mind so free from bias, so exempt from prejudice, as it ought to be, and as it would be in every other case, on which he had not been previously consulted. In fact, in whatever point of view we look at this appointment, it appears to involve such a confusion of the executive and judicial characters, as is utterly foreign from the spirit of our laws, and from the nature and harmony of our constitution.

The shipping and commercial interests of this country have been much indebted to Mr. Perceval on several occasions. On the motion for the second reading of the American Intercourse Bill (June 17, 1806,) he entered at large into the system on which the bill was founded, and opposed the whole of its principle, as being highly improper, and pregnant with danger to the interest of the state in every point of view; and was most particularly ill-timed, as it seemed to have the spirit of concession to America, and was likely to increase that hostility which appeared to be encourag-

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ed in the United States against this country. Concession, he said, at such a time, was, in his opinion, likely to retard, rather than to accelerate, a termination of the differences. He acquitted ministers of having such intentions; but maintained that such was likely to be the effect of that as well as of some others of their measures, which he found himself under the necessity of condemning.---We perfectly agree with Mr. Perceval, that the measure was highly injurious to the commercial interests of Britain; and at a moment when the furious and malignant imbecility of the Americans was *threatening* us with a Non-importation act, to make concessions appeared to be the height of folly, absurdity, and weakness.

On the discussion of the late Negociation Papers, (January 5, 1807) Mr. Perceval expressed his opinion, that, during the whole of the negotiation, the credulity of ministers had been practised on by the artifices of the enemy. He went over the whole of the correspondence, on which he commented at great length; censured, very pointedly, the private correspondence between Mr. Fox and M. Talleyrand, which he thought ought to be regarded with great suspicion; alluded to the decree of Buonaparte for placing this country in a state of blockade; hinted the propriety of adopting measures of reprisal; and, in noticing the treaty which had been concluded with the United States of America, expressed a hope that no undue concessions had been made by that arrangement.

It is deserving of notice, that, at the time of preparing this memoir for the press, the treaty with America, alluded to above, is understood to have been rejected by Mr. Jefferson, the president of the United

States;---rejected, unconstitutionally, by the president alone, without his submitting it to the senate! The treaty itself has not yet been published; but it is understood to stipulate, amongst other things, that the subjects of the United States shall have liberty to trade, under certain regulations, to the British territories in the East Indies; that they shall be at liberty to carry the produce of France direct to American ports, and thence re-convey it to any port in Europe; and that American ships shall not be liable to be searched within five miles of the American shores.---According to report, Mr. Jefferson has taken upon himself to reject this treaty, on the ground that there is no provision in it against impressing seamen; and because it is accompanied by a declaration on the part of the British government, that the signature of its commissioners is not to bind it to ratify the treaty, or restrain it from retaliating measures against the late French decree, unless it shall be previously assured, by the explanations or conduct of the United States, that they will pursue a satisfactory course against the infringement of their neutral rights by that decree.—In rejecting it, Mr. Jefferson is said to have declared, that he would put in full force the Non-importation Act after the 1st of July next, to which period it had been suspended.

We can scarcely say which excites the greater portion of astonishment, the folly, or the temerity of the Americans. But there is a thunder-storm about to burst over the head of Mr. Jefferson and his besotted partisans. Presuming on the reprehensible and degrading concessions which the late administration weakly thought proper to make in favor of the trade of

of the Americans, they unquestionably thought to bully them into precisely their own terms. But the *present* ministers will not prove so weakly conciliatory; they will prefer, we trust, the interests of *Britain* to those of *America*; and we feel the firmest conviction, that, when Mr. Jefferson shall learn the change which has taken place in this country, he will deeply and bitterly regret his rejection of the treaty; founded, we doubt not, on terms far more favorable for America than any he can now possibly hope to obtain.

We cannot quit this subject without adverting to the miserable, the contemptible state of the American marine; at a moment, too, when its feebly-furious government is hurling defiance in our teeth!—"On my last visit to the navy-yard," says Mr. Janson, in his recent publication, entitled 'The Stranger in America,' "I found six frigates, dismantled, and laid up in ordinary, and one nearly equipped for sea, for the purpose of carrying back the Tunisian embassy to Barbary. A small vessel of war, pierced for 20 guns, had just been launched. Mr. Jefferson, two years ago, adopted an idea of his own, in order to raise the credit of the American navy, and for the destruction of the powers of Barbary. This is, to build a number of small vessels of about 100 tons burden, to be called gun-boats, each of which is provided with two heavy pieces of ordnance—one at the stem, and the other at the stern. Though the inutility of these mockeries of men of war has been manifested on many occasions, yet the president persists in riding his naval hobby-horse, even in Kentucky; where several gun-boats are building on the river Ohio! One of them was nearly lost on a voyage to the Mediterra-

nean, being, the whole voyage, to use a sea-phrase' 'wet and under water.' Another *gun-boat*, No. 1. (thus they are named to No. 8) in a hurricane in South Carolina, was driven nearly a mile into the woods! ------------------Added to these, the Americans have a frigate, and two or three small vessels of war in the Mediterranean; and which constitute their navy!"

After this, can we be censured for exclaiming—— *Risum teneatis amici?* Mr. Jefferson indeed beats Lord Howick, our late

> "Sage Palinurus of the realm,
> By Vincent call'd to take the helm,
> And play his proxy's part."

The Americans may take the other half of the stanza, and ask,

> "Dost thou or star, or compass know,
> Canst steer aloft, or hand below,
> Hast conn'd the seaman's chart?"

Another instance of the concern which Mr. Perceval takes in every thing relating to the interests of the country, was evinced in his motion, calling for the order of council, relative to the trade of neutral vessels to and from the ports of the enemy. This motion was indeed withdrawn, on an explanation from Lord Howick; but its having been made was not the less creditable to Mr. Perceval.

We now approach towards a more important epoch in the life of this gentleman.—It was on the 5th of March last that Lord Howick thought proper to bring in a bill, the professed object of which was, to allow

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all persons who professed the Roman Catholic religion to serve his Majesty in the navy and army, with the free exercise of their religion. The alleged intention of the bill was also to relieve the Irish Catholics; and to do away an anomaly in the law, by which, though they were entitled to hold certain military commands in Ireland, they had hitherto been prevented from holding the same commands in England. Mr. Perceval, who appears to have been completely on the alert, and to have entertained strong suspicions of the *real* intention of the measure, objected to the motion, contending, that the bill proposed by the noble lord would operate as a partial repeal of the Test act. Nothing, he said, could essentially contribute to the preservation of tranquillity in Ireland, so much as affording every support to the Protestant ascendancy. He would not, however, object to the bill, provided the noble lord strictly maintained the restrictions under which the Catholics had so long existed.—For his perspicuity on this occasion much credit is unquestionably due to Mr. Perceval.

The history of Lord Howick's bill, here alluded to, is curious, but it may be comprised in a few words. It must be fresh in the recollection of every reader, that, in the year 1801, Mr. Pitt and his colleagues retired from office, on the ostensible ground of a difference between them and his Majesty on the subject of catholic emancipation. Mr. Pitt, and Lord Grenville, as well as Mr. Fox, and the adherents of that gentleman, were friendly to the claims of the Catholics; which, at a subsequent period, were submitted to, and rejected, by parliament. Mr. Pitt, on his return to power, undertook the direction of public affairs under

der the implied pledge that he should not agitate the Catholic question. On the death of that great statesman, Lord Grenville received his Majesty's commands to form a new administration. It was perhaps perfectly natural, on the part of the Catholics, that, knowing the greater part of the new ministers had been the supporters of their claims, while in opposition, they should also be friendly to them now that they were in power. It does not appear, however, that they had much pressed their suit. But ministers, fearful of disturbances; conscious, perhaps, that something would be expected from them, in favor of the Irish Catholics; and anxious, as they assert, to prevent the discussion of the grand question, for their general emancipation, resolved upon a measure, which, they conceived, might keep the subject at rest. An Irish act had been passed, in 1793, enabling the Catholics to hold certain commands in Ireland; and it was now proposed, that they should be eligible to the same commands in England. The bill in question was therefore brought forward. His Majesty, from the first, evinced a repugnance to the measure; but at length consented, under the impression, that, as the new bill was professedly to be founded on the principle of the Irish act of 1793, it would not only make the same *concessions*, but contain the same *restrictions*. When it was discovered, however, that it went to remove all barriers, and that the Catholics, and dissenters of every description, were to be admitted to *every* command, including the highest, in both the navy and army, merely on taking the common oath of allegiance, his Majesty's aversion from the measure was more decided. Some of the members of the cabinet, amongst whom we may

reckon Lord Sidmouth, Lord Ellenborough, and Lord Erskine—also appear to have considered that the new bill was to contain the restrictions of the Irish act. Lord Sidmouth has indeed publicly stated, that whatever might have been the consequences of a refusal, he would never have consented to an extension of the Catholics' privileges. This difference of opinion, between his Majesty and his ministers, ultimately led to the dismissal of the latter. They agreed, it is true, to drop the obnoxious measure; but they refused to give a pledge, that the claims of the Catholics should not again be urged. In this refusal, about which so much has been said, the cabinet were unanimous.—The firmness of his Majesty on the occasion cannot be too much applauded. Firmly attached to the Protestant religion—the tenure by which he holds his throne—and adhering conscientiously to his coronation oath, he had once before, to a *favourite* ministry, refused to grant such concessions, as he conceived would amount to a violation of that oath. Having refused those concessions to a *favourite*, and long tried ministry, was it not the height of folly, in a *new* administration, in one whose services had only been accepted from *necessity*, in one, some of the members of which must have been individually obnoxious to his Majesty, to make such serious and alarming demands?

The dismissal of the Grenville and Howick administration having been determined on, the formation of a new cabinet was confided to the Duke of Portland Amongst the earliest arrangements, Mr. Perceval was fixed upon, as a fit person to fill the important office of Chancellor of his Majesty's Exchequer. This was a post which, in all probability, Mr. Perceval

val had not long, if at all, contemplated; but that circumstance by no means invalidates the propriety of the choice. At the same time, we shall not follow the silly example of certain consequential public bodies, which, on the formation of the late ministry, thought proper to offer their venal *thanks* to men for *services* which had *never been performed.* We entertain not the slightest doubt, as to the zeal, the patriotism, and the general talent of Mr. Perceval; nor have we any fears, as to the incapacity of the present administration, collectively: but we conceive that it will be sufficiently early to *praise* them, when they shall have performed acts *worthy* of applause.

It is well-known, that the pecuniary emoluments, derivable from the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer, are extremely small, and by no means proportionate to the labour and responsibility of the situation. As an inducement, therefore, to Mr. Perceval, who, by his acceptance of the office, must forego the profits of a lucrative and honourable profession, is was proposed to invest him with a grant of the chancellorship of the duchy of Lancaster, for life. No sooner was this intention known, then that party, which has ever proved itself ready to run all lengths to answer its purposes, raised a violent outcry; and Mr. Banks brought forward a motion in the house of commons (March 24) that no office, place, or employment, or salary, ought hereafter to be given or granted to any person or persons in any part of his Majesty's dominions in reversion.—In the debate which ensued upon the motion, some acrimonious allusions were made, on one side to the Grenville family, who were asserted to be in possession of 60,000*l.* annually, in reversion; and, on

on the other, to Mr. Perceval, whose expected appointment was animadverted on with much severity. —On the following evening, Mr. Martin, agreeably to notice, made the specific motion:—That an humble address be presented to his Majesty, that he will be graciously pleased not to grant the chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster, or any other place or appointment during life, but during pleasure. Mr. Martin, in his prefatory remarks, affected to consider the appointment alluded to, as both illegal and unconsitutional; and that, howsoever highly the talents of Mr. Perceval might be rated, the presentation of such a boon was certainly over-valuing them. On the question being put, Mr. Perceval rose and observed, that his anxiety on a subject, which affected him particularly, was his inducement for appearing in the house that night. It having been resolved, he said, in a certain quarter, to take the administration of affairs out of the hands of the then ministers, it had been intended, at the same time, to confer upon him a high office together with the situation which was the subject of discussion. He would go farther, he added, and state, that he should then have been in possession of both those places, had it not been for the notice of the present motion, which had been given on the preceding day; but, instead of appearing before his sovereign, possessed of those offices, he had approached his Majesty that day, to request that he would be graciously pleased not to confer them on him then, lest any address of parliament might interfere with his Majesty's object. He had likewise felt it a duty and respect due to parliament, to advise that the king should be at liberty to take into his consideration the sense of

of the house on the question before it, which in some measure involved the royal prerogative. Having given that advice, with respect to the point in question, he assured the house, that, whatever might be the pleasure of his Majesty, with regard to himself, it was his determination to serve him in the high office to which his Majesty had signified his intention of appointing him; but he should accept the situation, so as to leave his sovereign at liberty to yield to the address of the house, should such be the result of the discussion. He candidly avowed that he meant to take the Chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster, for the sake of his family, to whom he thought he owed some compensation for the emoluments which he should relinquish, because his professional practice would be incompatible with the discharge of his official duty.—On closing his observations, Mr. Perceval left the house, repeating, that whatever might be the decision on the discretion exercised by his Majesty in the present instance, he would not withhold himself from his Majesty's service.

The motion, after considerable discussion, was carried, by a majority of 208 against 115; in consequence of which, an address, conformably thereto, was presented to the throne; to which the king was pleased to return for answer—"That his Majesty received the humble address of his faithful commons; and in consequence of that address, he had granted the office of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster during his pleasure only.—*At the same time he acquainted his faithful commons, that in exercising that part of the prerogative of the crown vested therein by law, of granting offices for*

life

life, his most anxious wish has uniformly been the welfare of his people."

The latter part of the royal answer, was, we conceive, a sufficient reproof to the framers of the address.

In the discussion of the 8th of April, on Mr. Brand's motion,—that it is the first duty of responsible ministers not to enter into any pledge, written or implied, in regard to any advice which they might conceive it necessary to give his Majesty, on all matters relating to his crown and dignity—it was asserted by the ex-ministers, that his Majesty had been influenced by secret advisers, in their dismissal; a position which Mr. Perceval positively contradicted.

On the 15th of April, when Mr. Lyttleton's motion was discussed—that this house, considering a firm and efficient administration as indispensibly necessary in the present important crisis of public affairs, has seen with the deepest regret the late change in his Majesty's councils—Mr. Tierney, and one or two other members, alluded to Mr. Perceval's address to his constituents, on the subject of his re-election, which they effected to regard as of an inflammatory tendency, and as directed to the worst passions of the human heart. Mr. Perceval, in reply, repelled these charges; disclaimed the intention of exciting religious animosity; and contended, that, if such animosity had been called forth, it proceeded from the measures of the late administration. It was *their* plans which would have ultimately shaken the established church, which had agitated the minds of the people. In every point of view in which the question could be considered, *they*, he said, were to blame.

We have thus brought down the public career of Mr. Perceval, to the latest period; and, in so doing, have endeavoured to exhibit a political picture of the times; which, it must be confessed, are pregnant with important events. What may be in store, is concealed by the curtain of futurity; but we are not without confidence, in the skill and patriotism of those who have assumed the management of public affairs; and, under the protecting care of heaven, we hope for the best.

We have only to add, that Mr. Perceval, in addition to his offices of Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, possesses the reversion of the Register of the Court of Admiralty, and also holds the trivial appointment of Clerk of the Irons in the Tower; a place estimated at the yearly salary of *132l. 10s.*—

At the time of putting this sheet to press, Mr. Perceval's friends, under the expectation of a dissolution of parliament, are carrying forward an active canvas in his favour, at the University of Cambridge, in opposition to Lord Henry Petty.

THE LATE REVEREND

WILLIAM ALPHONSUS GUNN,

CURATE OF St. MARY, WOOLNOTH; LECTURER of St. MARY, SOMERSET, &c.

"I love to see a man zealous in a good matter, and especially when his zeal shews itself for advancing morality, and promoting the happiness of mankind."

ADDISON.

"Blessed are the Dead, that die in the Lord."

LABOURERS in the vineyard of Christ ought not to be slothful. To the coldness, and apparent apathy of too many of the clergy of the established church, has been attributed—and we fear with too much justice—the alarming increase of sectaries, and the proportionate diminution of genuine piety.

We know that an impassioned manner of delivery, in the pulpit, has been seriously condemned, by many sound Christians, as calculated to lead away the feelings, without convincing the reason of the hearers. "A man of real learning and abilities," says a very able writer on the subject, "though he does not despise the external and mechanical means of making an impression on the minds of his hearers, will scorn

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General Beningsen.

Rev. A. Gunn.

to make them, at any time, the chief object of his attention. But he who is too idle to be learned, and too vain to be modest, must endeavour to supply what he wants in substance, by tinsel and shew. Such empty harangues are, therefore, always a proof of the ignorance and vanity of him who delivers them; nor, in truth, can they ever be attended with any lasting advantage to the people; they may tickle the imagination, undoubtedly, but they are not calculated to correct the conduct, or to improve the heart. These ends can be attained only by convincing the understanding; by shewing us that our interest and our duty are inseparably connected; and that we cannot offend the laws of our Maker, without deeply wounding and injuring ourselves."—The real object of preaching, we conceive to be, to explain the Holy Scriptures to the understanding, and to apply them to the *heart* and life. In matters of religion—religion in many respects independent of reason—the *heart* is certainly of most consequence. We do not, indeed, accord in sentiment with a modern author, whose name we forget, that, "if it could possibly happen that a long and grave exhortation, whether religious or moral, could be introduced into a play, he has no doubt that Garrick would have delivered it, and that Kemble would now deliver it, in a much more solemn, impressive manner, than the most celebrated clergyman in Great Britain." No; there is a something in pulpit eloquence far superior to the most studied elocution of the stage; far more impressive, commanding, and convincing. Instances have been known, of "guilty creatures at a play," having been so wrought upon by the cunning of the scene," that they have disclosed

 their

their secret crimes; but what is this, compared with the effects which have been produced by the energetic, the impassioned, the self-affecting discourses of many Christian preachers?—We despise the inflated delivery, the clap-trap attitude of the stage, when foisted into the pulpit; but still we contend, that the manner of a preacher should be impassioned, that he should seem to feel the truth of what he says, that he should be most seriously in earnest. Paul, we are told, "made Felix *tremble;*" but, surely we are not to suppose that the governor was so deeply affected by the logical or metaphysical *reasoning* of the preacher. More rational would it be to infer, that Paul directed his discourse to the *feelings*, to the *heart* of his noble auditor, than to his head.

These remarks, we trust, will not be thought improperly placed, as introductory to a few brief particulars respecting the late Rev. Mr. Gunn; a man who had many followers and many admirers; and who, we doubt not, has done much good in his day and generation.

This devout and faithful servant of Christ was born at Rotherhithe, in the year 1761. Whether he were originally intended for the church, we know not; but, from the circumstance of his parents having been dissenters, we should suppose the contrary. His education, however, was regular; though we are not inclined to think that he ever made any extraordinary proficiency in classical knowledge. At all events, his pursuits and practice, of late years, have not been such as could materially increase his stock of pagan learning.

Mr. Gunn embraced what are generally denominated

nated the evangelical tenets, from attending to the ministry of the late celebrated and Rev. Mr. Brewer, of Stepney; a man well known, and much admired, in religious society. It was by means of one of that gentleman's May-day sermons to young people, that Mr. Gunn was first seriously brought to contemplate "man's being, end, and aim;" and to view, in their proper light, the merits of a suffering and crucified redeemer. Aware, with Milton, that "though men were none," heaven would not "want spectators, God want praise," he was the more deeply impressed with the goodness and mercy of the Almighty, in extending his blessings to fallen and degenerate man;—to a race of beings, who, by the transgression of their first parents, had forfeited all claim to the divine protection.

Some time after this period, Mr. Gunn officiated as afternoon-preacher at the parish-church of Farnham, in Surrey, where his labours proved eminently useful. From this situation he was dismissed by the rector, in 1792, at the instigation, we understand, of some wealthy persons, who could not endure his faithful preaching.

His preaching was indeed faithful; it was animated, impassioned, sincere. His whole soul was poured forth to his hearers. To those who never had the happiness of hearing Mr. Gunn, of witnessing the lively interest which he took in the welfare and salvation of his auditors, this assertion will be fully proved by his "*Power of the Gospel*," a sermon published from his manuscript, since his death, under the auspices of the Rev. Mr. Rowland Hill. This discourse is from the second verse of the 131st Psalm:—"As a child that is weaned of his mother; my soul is even as a weaned child."

child." The object of this sermon is to shew the effect which the gospel has, in weaning the affections from the world; and to prove, that those who have experienced its power, are weaned from all dependance upon any thing but Christ, "If you have indeed felt the power of the gospel," says the preacher, "you are weaned from seeking happiness in any thing but God. Christians must frequently be told of this: you often forget it, and bring distress upon yourselves. This is a painful lesson. The child when first weaned from his mother, no doubt, feels much; he can relish no other food like it; but in a short time he forgets it, and is reconciled to be nourished with stronger food. And whenever we set up our idols, whenever we suffer any body or any thing to engross that love which is God's due, those very idols are frequently made the cause of our greatest unhappiness. 'Give me children,' said Rachael, 'or else I die:' but behold, the very completion of her desire brought that death upon her she wished to avoid; she indeed had a child, but that child occasioned her death, for she died in bringing it into the world.

"Let it not be supposed, however, that the gospel lessens natural affection, so far from it, that it increases it; but it learns you a very important lesson: do not place them in God's stead, they are held upon a very precarious tenure indeed: happiness, placed in any thing but Christ, will soon change its name—it will become distress.

"Now, nothing but the gospel will produce these great effects, or really wean our affections from the world; we are all miserably deficient here: Lord, let *me* be as a child that is weaned from its mother, let *my*

my soul be as a weaned child: I trust it is in some degree, but let it be more and more, till I can say: 'Whom have I in heaven but thee, and there is none upon earth that I desire in comparison of thee.'"

For several years past, Mr. Gunn has regularly officiated as curate of St. Mary, Woolnoth, in Lombard Street; and as lecturer of St. Mary, Somerset, in Thames Street; where he has constantly had the gratification of preaching to numerous and crowded congregations. His beneficial labours, however, were not confined to his established appointments; for, we believe, almost every church in the metropolis has occasionally, and repeatedly received him into its pulpit. His attraction, as a preacher of charity sermons, was perhaps unequalled; and, so forcible were his appeals to the benevolent feelings of his hearers, that a liberal and ample collection* was almost uniformly the result of his exertions.

So ardent, so unremitting were his labours in the good cause which he had undertaken to support, that nature at length sunk beneath the unceasing effort. Habitually inattentive to his health, his zeal, and the vehemence of his manner, opened the inroads of disease upon his constitution; and, on the 5th of December, 1806, at the early age of six and forty, he fell a premature victim to the great destroyer. Happily for him, death had been deprived of his sting; and, confident in the hope of a blessed immortality, he tranquilly resigned himself into the arms of his redeemer. His death was unexpected; and he had been confined only about a fortnight, when he ceased to be of this world.

Under this loss, it must be some consolation to

 learn,

learn, that a volume of the discourses and letters of Mr. Gunn, with a portrait prefixed, is in the press, and will speedily be published. The Rev. Mr. Shurlock, of Farnham, superintends the publication; the sermons having been presented to him by the author, about seven years ago. Many of the letters were also addressed to Mr. Shurlock, who was the writer's particular friend.

In the mean time, in addition to the discourse which we have already mentioned, as having been given to the world under the auspices of the Rev. Rowland Hill, two sermons of Mr. Gunn's have been printed, which had been taken in short hand. "They contain," says the editor, "no elegant novelties whereon to found a literary reputation, nor have they the advantage of being retouched by the author's pen, which will account for some defects evident to literary readers: yet the sermons so faithfully represent his plain, simple, affectionate, and pointed manner of address, that, it is hoped, with the divine blessing, they may be instrumental to a more valuable end—that end to which he consecrated all his labours—the salvation of immortal souls."

The first of the sermons here alluded to, was preached from the 23d chapter of Joshua, verse the 14th: "*Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth;*" and is entitled "*Preparation for death:*" the second is, "*The Parable of the Sower,*" from the 13th of Matthew, verse the 18th.—A passage, towards the close of the latter, is at this time particularly deserving of notice. "I beg of you," says the preacher, "to beware of sleeping upon your doctrinal pillows; God has given you much religious liberty; there was

a time

a time when that great preacher, the Rev. G. Whitfield, received in this very pulpit in which I now stand (Long-acre Chapel) all the insult that the Devil or his agents could raise: here we now meet in peace: *there never was so much religious liberty as at present. I cannot tell what those mean who say they have not liberty enough*; let us be thankful for the liberty we enjoy: cannot I stand and preach here with as much liberty as if I were in St. Paul's cathedral? Let not the child of God be discouraged that he cannot bring forth more fruit to God; I am sure, if you are a child of God, you wish to bring forth more fruit; but let us be humbled that we are not better than we are, and let us be thankful we are no worse than we are; you might have been now trampling under foot this blessed day."

The remains of Mr. Gunn were interred on the 13th of December, in the vault under St. Mary Woolnoth's church. The burial service was performed by the Rev. Mr. Foster; and the funeral was most respectfully attended by evangelical clergymen, gentlemen, and a numerous body of people, who filled the church. The grief which was manifested on the occasion, was, as might be expected, uncommonly great. On the succeeding day (Sunday) three funeral sermons were preached on his departure: one by the Rev. Mr. Shepherd; a second by the Rev. Mr. Sanders, of Bethnal Green; and a third by the Rev. Mr. Davies, of St. Margaret's Chapel, Westminster. The last of these was expected to be given to the world; but, as far as we can learn, this has not hitherto been done.

We cannot, we conceive, close this brief article better than by copying the following correct delineation of Mr. Gunn's character, as drawn by the Rev. Rowland

land Hill, and prefixed to "*The Power of the Gospel*," a sermon already noticed :—

"Thought it might be inconsistent," says he, "to register our late very valuable friend among the more elaborate preachers of the day, yet if, after all, he is to be esteemed the best preacher who does most good to the souls and consciences of his hearers, few ministers deserve that character more than our dear departed brother in this blessed work.

"I am the more happy to drop this my testimony, as it respects the labours of our dear friend, as there are too many of us who are apt to waste our time about mere words, more with a design to gratify the ear than to affect the heart. Not so our beloved brother, now with God ; he was very signally blessed with many seals to his ministry,* and if none were to find fault with him but those who were as useful as himself, though we have all of us foibles and defects, no minister would have fewer objectors to start up against him. In simplicity and godly sincerity, he at all times had his conversation in the world as a minister of Christ ; and such are the ministers that God will, at all times, own and bless."

AARON

AARON BURR.

THE annals of history, during the last forty years, exhibit a series of astonishing political revolutions, which have been, or appear likely to be, only the precursors of others still more extraordinary. In the old world, Poland, after having been swept by two partitions from the list of nations, is now amused with the hope of again figuring as an independent power. France, weary of the abuses of royalty, deluged her provinces with oceans of blood, to establish republican liberty and equality, merely for the purpose of sacrificing them, in their turn, to a military tyranny infinitely more oppressive than her ancient system of government. The Dutch, whose forefathers, two centuries ago, indignantly shook off the yoke of a Spanish despot, and raised themselves as a commonwealth to an envied pitch of prosperity and affluence, crouched without a struggle at the footstool of the kingly puppet, palmed upon them by a foreign usurper.

But, passing over the numerous changes which have taken place in minor states, the degradation of legitimate sovereigns, and the exaltation of others, let us turn our view to the widely-extended regions of the Western World, where colonies of a mighty nation, throwing off their allegiance to their mother-country, erected themselves, after a seven-years' contest, into an

an independent republic. It would appear that durability is not one of the properties of political systems of recent formation. That of the American states, sealed by the peace of 1783, and which has consequently endured not the fourth part of a century, already carries in its bosom the seeds of its dissolution. How soon that event may take place it is impossible to determine, but in the opinion of many it is not very far distant.

Among other writers who have expressed their sentiments on this subject, we shall quote a passage from a work recently published by a gentleman, who, from his long residence in America, and his favorable opportunities of obtaining correct notions concerning the United States, is entitled to more than ordinary attention.—"Considering," says he, "the opposite interests of the northern and southern states, it is surprising that the federal constitution has so long maintained itself, and triumphed over contending parties. Some of the best informed men are, however, of opinion that the compact will not hold much longer, and that the next election of a president will sever the states, and leave New York or Pennsylvania the boundary between them. The northern states are firm federalists, that is, of Washington's system; in the south they are violent democrats, bawlers for liberty in the very midst of slavery! The latter have twice elected Mr. Jefferson as president; and it is conjectured that, should the federals fail in their majority, at the next election, it will be the tocsin of disunion."*

* *The Stranger in America, by C. W. Janson, Esq.* a work which, at the present crisis, will be found peculiarly interesting.

None

None of our readers, we presume, can be ignorant that Mr. Burr, the subject of the present article, is more than suspected of harbouring a design to effect this dismemberment. It may fairly be questioned, however, whether he possesses either the talents or the popularity necessary for the execution of so bold a project. Be this as it may, he has lately occupied such a large share of the attention of the citizens of the United States, that he cannot fail to be, though, it is true, in a smaller degree, an object of interest on this side of the Atlantic; and we shall therefore endeavor, as far as lies in our power, to gratify the public curiosity with respect to the principal events of his life.

Aaron Burr was born about the year 1755, at Princeton, in the state of New Jersey. His father, a native of Fairfield, in Connecticut, was a presbyterian divine, a man of considerable learning, and president of the college of Princeton. His mother was the daughter of Jonathan Edwards, celebrated not only as a theological and metaphysical writer, but also as the founder of a new sect, which received from his name the appellation of Edwardians.

Mr. Burr was but an infant when his father died, and Mr. Edwards being appointed to succeed him as president of Princeton college, his grandson remained under his tuition. The hand of death soon afterwards snatched away Mr. Edwards, during the childhood of young Aaron, who continued at the college till he took his degrees, according to the usual forms.

The troubles which led to the independence of America were just at this time beginning. Mr. Burr, animated with the same ardor which inflamed the bosoms

of

of so many other young Americans, exchanged the peaceful pursuit of academical studies for the bustle of a camp. He commenced his military career during the campaign of 1775. His first enterprize was the famous expedition to Canada, in which he accompanied the little corps of Arnold, in the capacity of a volunteer.

This expedition, it is well known, was planned as a retaliation for the defeat of the Americans at Bunker's Hill; but neither the force employed, nor the season of the year, promised success. In the middle of winter, which is of a severity unknown in Europe, Arnold at the head of four hundred men, resolved to set out on a march of nearly one thousand miles, through desarts, and across mountains of snow. While traversing the wilderness between Boston and Quebec, he is said to have been thirty-one days without seeing a house, in which time his detachment suffered severely from cold and hunger. Toward the end of November they arrived in that northern latitude, without tents, provisions, horses, or artillery. The hardships and fatigues of such an expedition, were well calculated to try the patience and courage of the young soldier.

Arnold, finding his strength wholly inadequate to the attack of Quebec, was obliged to wait the coming of General Montgomery, who was expected from the upper country. He arrived in December, with a force little superior to that of Arnold, except in artillery. Mr. Burr now attached himself to the general in quality of aid-de-camp, till the assault upon Quebec deprived the American army of one of its ablest leaders. Montgomery, and two officers of the staff, were among the slain, Arnold was wounded, nearly half of the

troops

troops were made prisoners in the town; and the remainder retreated in confusion.

Mr. Burr still continued to serve in the northern army, the fortunes of which, during the campaign of 1776, were rather honorable than brilliant. In this interval he rose to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. In 1777 he was attached to the army of General Gates, and was present at the action of Saratoga, which led to the capture of a whole British army under Burgoyne. Colonel Burr next returned to his native state, New Jersey, with that portion of the northern army which was called to the aid of Washington. There he performed some exploits as a partizan, but of no great import in the general result of the national contest.

In the year 1779, Colonel Burr quitted the army. His reason for relinquishing the military profession, which he never afterwards resumed, we are unable to assign. He betook himself to the study of the law, and, at the conclusion of the war, commenced his practice in the city of New York. About the same time he married a very amiable woman, the young widow of General Provost, a British officer who died in Florida. By this lady, whose society Mr. Burr was not long destined to enjoy, he has one child, a daughter, who is now the wife of Mr. Allston, of South Carolina.

The time and the place in which Mr. Burr commenced the practice of the profession of the law, were eminently calculated to ensure his success. No city in America had been so completely drained of public men and prominent characters. Most of the leading advocates, adhering to the royal cause, had withdrawn to England; some, embracing the opposite party, had

perished in the conflict, while others had been promoted to high judicial stations, or various public offices. Such was the situation of affairs when Mr. Burr entered upon this new career. His knowledge of the world inspired him with confidence in his own abilities, and his eloquence being brilliant and insinuating, he was no sooner heard in a court of justice, than he acquired a distinguished rank in his profession.

By his practice, Mr. Burr might doubtless have accumulated wealth, had he prosecuted his business with diligence, and lived with economy; but a taste for expence, and some unlucky land speculations, have, it is said, kept his fortune in a state of mediocrity, not a little mortifying to himself. To this end also, a strong ambition to figure in the higher stations of government contributed. He was early and repeatedly elected to the legislative assembly of the state, and several times occupied a seat in congress. Considering his want of fortune and family connection, his efforts to raise himself to the highest posts have been remarkably successful.

Not many years of independence had passed over the American states, when two parties, similar in their principles to those which for upwards of a century have been known in England by the appellations of Whigs and Tories, began to manifest themselves. In America they received the names of democrats and federalists. The leaders of the latter were the illustrious Washington, then at the head of the government, John Adams, Jay, and many other distinguished actors in the revolution. The chiefs of the democrats were Jefferson, Samuel Adams, Clinton, &c. To the latter, or the democratic party, Mr. Burr attached

tached himself; he uniformly acted with it even when its fortunes were at the lowest ebb, and in his turn received its support.

In 1797, when Washington announced his resolution to decline serving the office of president for another term, the democrats proposed Mr. Jefferson to fill that high office, and selected Burr as a candidate for the vice-presidency, while their opponents were desirous of elevating John Adams to the dignity of chief magistrate. The latter were successful; Jefferson was chosen vice-president, and the expectations of Mr. Burr were for that time disappointed.

At the expiration of the constitutional term of four years, occurred the remarkable election of 1801. For the history of this contest, and a few other particulars relative to Mr. Burr, we shall again have recourse to the authority which we have already quoted in this article.

" On the election of a president and vice-president," says Mr. Janson, " Colonel Burr had an equal number of votes with Mr. Jefferson, for the office of chief magistrate. The house of representatives, by the law, as it then stood, were, in such case, to decide by ballot which of the candidates should be president, and the other was, of course, to be vice-president. This business took up more than a week, and the house sometimes continued ballotting during the night. It was carried on with the greatest obstinacy by the contending parties; members were brought to vote from the bed of sickness, and it was even feared that there would be no election, which, leaving the country without a president, at such a period of political animosity, could not fail of being attended with fatal con-

 sequences.

sequences. The democratic party proceeded to threats, but the federals were not to be intimidated. Mr. Adams, the late president, and Mr. Pinckney, the candidates proposed by them, having lost the election, the federal party were left to choose one of the democratic candidates who had been successful. They preferred Burr to Jefferson, which gained the former the greatest number of individual votes in the house of representatives. A majority of the states, was, however, to determine the matter: of these, Jefferson had eight, namely, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, and Tennessee. The states that voted for Burr were, New Hampshire, Massachusets, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware, and South Carolina. During this singular contest, the votes of the members of the house of representatives were, for Burr 54, and for Jefferson 51. Two states, Vermont and Maryland, were divided, and it therefore became necessary that a member for one of these states should recede, in order to put a stop to the approaching scene of anarchy and confusion. This expedient was actually resorted to; Jefferson thus acquired a majority, and the impending political tempest was averted.

"The division on this important occasion tends to confirm the opinion I have already expressed, relative to a future separation of the American states. We here find those of New England unanimously voting the same way, except Vermont, which was divided, and in direct opposition to all the southern states, save South Carolina, which, with Delaware, was with the federal interest.

"In order to prevent a similar election, but more,

as

as the Federals say, to secure Mr. Jefferson's re-election at the expiration of four years, a law was passed, by which the electors are to designate by name in their tickets, the person for whom they vote as president, and in like manner for vice-president. By the former mode, the man who had the greatest number of votes was president, and the next vice-president—the federals supporting one party, and the democrats the other.

"The two presidential chairs were taken without farther resistance, and Colonel Burr attended in his seat, as president of the senate, generally about one half of the sessions. The inutility of this office has long been a subject of private discussion and complaint; and many consider it little more than a sinecure, except that, in case of the death or removal of the chief magistrate, the vice-president officiates till the time arrives for another election. In his absence, the senators elect one of their own body president *pro tempore*, and they went more smoothly through their business when Colonel Burr was away."

It was on occasion of this election that the vice-president was afterwards accused of practices which savored both of ingratitude and injustice; and certain it is that this charge, together with an unfortunate circumstance in which he has since been involved, contributed greatly to the decline of his popularity, and had the effect of sinking him very low in the public esteem. In the undistinguished mode in which votes were given at that time, it was intended that all who nominated Jefferson should vote for Burr, also; but it was asserted, and generally believed, that he set a friend to work to procure one vote to be thrown

away from Jefferson on an indifferent person, that the number for himself might exceed that for his colleague, and to secure his own election as president, contrary to the general sentiments of his party.

In 1804, the vice-president declared himself a candidate for the office of governor of the state of New York, but being opposed by democrats as well as federalists, he proved unsuccessful. It was this election that led to the event which rendered Burr an object of notoriety, if not of execration, throughout the United States. During the canvass, General Hamilton, a leading man among the federalists, and who had rendered essential services to his country, both as a soldier and a statesman, made some free observations on the character of Colonel Burr. Some time afterwards, these animadversions became known through the channel of a newspaper to the latter, and from one of the most unaccountable prejudices that have perverted human reason, he thought it necessary to call the general to a personal account. To enable the reader more duly to appreciate the cause of offence, we shall introduce the letter of Colonel Burr, which opened a correspondence of considerable length, and the reply of his high-spirited antagonist.

"New York, June 18, 1804.

"SIR,

"I SEND for your perusal a letter signed Charles D. Cooper, which, though apparently published some time ago, has but very recently come to my knowledge. Mr. Van Ness, who does me the favour to deliver

liver this, will point out to you that clause of the letter to which I particularly request your attention.

"You must perceive, Sir, the necessity of a prompt and unqualified acknowledgment or denial of the use of any expression which would warrant the assertions of Dr. Cooper.

"I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

"A. BURR."

General Hamilton's answer was as follows:

"New York, June 20, 1804.

"SIR,

"I HAVE maturely reflected on the subject of your letter of the 18th instant, and the more I have reflected, the more I am become convinced that I could not, without manifest impropriety, make the avowal or disavowal which you seem to think necessary. The clause pointed out by Mr. Van Ness is in these terms: 'I could detail to you a *still more despicable* opinion which Hamilton *has expressed* of Mr. Burr.' To endeavor to discover the meaning of this declaration, I was obliged to seek in the antecedent part of this letter for the opinion to which it referred, as having been already disclosed. I found it in these words: 'General Hamilton and Judge Kent have declared, in substance, that they looked upon Mr. Burr to be *a dangerous man, and one who ought not to be trusted with the reins of government.*'

"The language of Dr. Cooper plainly implies, that *he* considered this opinion of you, which he attributes to me, as a *despicable* one; but he affirms that I have expressed some other *still more despicable*, without, however, mentioning to whom, when, or where. 'Tis evident

evident that the phrase 'still more despicable,' admits of infinite shades, from very light to very dark. How am I to judge of the degree intended; or how shall I annex any precise idea to language so indefinite?

"Between gentlemen, *despicable* and *more despicable* are not worth the pains of a distinction: when, therefore, you do not interrogate me as to the opinion, which is specifically ascribed to me, I must conclude that you view it as within the limits to which the animadversions of political opponents upon each other may justifiably extend, and consequently as not warranting the idea of it which Dr. Cooper appears to entertain. If so, what precise inference could you draw as a guide for your conduct, were I to acknowledge that I had expressed an opinion of you *still more* despicable than the one which is particularized? How could you be sure that even this opinion had exceeded the bounds which you would yourself deem admissible between political opponents?

"But I forbear farther comment on the embarrassments to which the requisition you have made naturally leads. The occasion forbids a more ample illustration, though nothing could be more easy than to pursue it.

"Repeating that I cannot reconcile it with propriety to make the acknowledgment or denial you require, I will add that I deem it inadmissible on principle to consent to be interrogated as to the justness of the inferences which may be drawn by others from whatever I may have said of a political opponent in the course of a fifteen years' competition. If there were no other objection to it, this is sufficient, that

it would tend to expose my sincerity and delicacy to injurious imputations from any person who may at any time have conceived the import of my expressions, differently from what I may then have intended, or may afterwards recollect. I stand ready to avow or disavow promptly and explicitly any precise or definite opinion which I may be charged with having declared of any gentleman. More than this cannot fitly be expected of me; and especially it cannot be reasonably expected that I shall enter into an explanation upon a basis so vague as that which you have adopted. I trust, on more reflection, you will see the matter in the same light with me. If not, I can only regret the circumstance, and must abide the consequences.

"The publication of Dr. Cooper was never seen by me till after the receipt of your letter.

"I have the honor to be, &c.

"A. HAMILTON."

Many other written and verbal communications took place between the parties, in the course of which General Hamilton declared, that the conversation to which Dr. Cooper alluded, turned wholly on political topics, and did not attribute to Colonel Burr any instance of dishonorable conduct, nor relate to his private character. He at the same time stated his readiness to give a prompt and frank avowal or denial in relation to any other language or conversation which Colonel Burr should specify.

This acknowledgment and proposition proved unsatisfactory to the vice-president, who at length sent the general a challenge. Hamilton replied that, as the court was then sitting, and his services were re-

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tained in several important causes, he could not feel himself at liberty to fight till after the court should rise, and that he had also some private arrangements to make, which would render some delay unavoidable.

During this interval the time and place of meeting were arranged by Mr. Pendleton and Mr. Van Ness, the seconds. In the American republic, affairs of honor are generally decided in the adjoining state to that in which the parties reside. This is done to evade the law, for as each state is independent of the rest, in cases of murder, the offenders can only be apprehended where the crime was committed, and thus escape with impunity. For this reason it was agreed that the interview between Colonel Burr and General Hamilton should take place in the state of New Jersey, which is contiguous to New York, and the morning of the 11th of July was appointed for the purpose.

Of the occurrences of this fatal meeting, the following statement was drawn up by the seconds of the parties:—"Colonel Burr arrived first on the ground, as had been agreed; when General Hamilton arrived, the parties exchanged salutations, and the seconds proceeded to make the arrangements. They measured the distance, ten full paces, and cast lots for the choice of position, as also to determine by whom the word should be given, both of which fell to the second of General Hamilton. They then proceeded to load the pistols in each other's presence, after which the parties took their stations. The gentleman who was to give the word, then explained to the parties the rules which were to govern them in firing. He then asked if they were prepared; being answered in the affirma-

tive,

tive, he gave the word as was agreed upon; both parties presented, and fired in succession. The fire of Colonel Burr took effect, and General Hamilton almost instantly fell. Colonel Burr then advanced towards General Hamilton with a manner and gesture that appeared to the general's friend to be expressive of regret, but without speaking, turned about and withdrew, being urged from the field by his second, with a view to prevent his being recognized by the surgeon and bargemen, who were then approaching. No further communication took place between the principals, and the barge that carried Colonel Burr immediately returned to the city."

The general languished two days and expired. A coroner's jury summoned to investigate the circumstances attending the catastrophe, returned a verdict of *wilful murder* against the vice-president of the United States. Terrified by the popular clamor occasioned by the untimely fate of the illustrious Hamilton, he privately quitted the city of New York.

It would be unjust to both the parties concerned in this melancholy transaction to omit mentioning the subjoined particulars. Among the papers of the deceased general, was found one in which he thus expresses himself: "It is not to be denied that my animadversions on the political principles and views of Colonel Burr have been extremely severe; and on different occasions, I, in common with many others, have made very unfavorable criticisms on particular instances of the private conduct of this gentleman." This seems to favor a belief that Mr. Burr's resentment was not without sufficient foundation, and affords some excuse—if, however, the barbarous practice of duel-

ling will admit of excuse—for his subsequent conduct. On the other hand, to the honor of Hamilton, it appears, that he was desirous to avoid the possibility of shedding the blood of his antagonist. With that magnanimity for which he was always distinguished, he adds, in the paper alluded to above: "I have resolved if our interview is conducted in the usual manner, and if it pleases God to give me the opportunity, to reserve and throw away my first fire, and I have thought even of reserving my second, and thus giving a double opportunity to Colonel Burr to pause and reflect."

On leaving New York, Mr. Burr passed into the state of New Jersey, and was conducted by a friend to Cranberry. He then proceeded in a light waggon (for so the ordinary vehicles for travelling are called in America) to Lamberton Ferry, where he crossed the Delaware, and arrived at Bristol, about twenty miles from Philadelphia. An American print observed that the same route through Jersey was some time before pursued by Thomas Paine, and doubtless with the same view—to escape the scrutinizing eye and dreaded observation of the public. It was said that, at a tavern a few miles beyond the Delaware, he was recognized by the landlord, who, ignorant of his wish to be concealed, addressed him as usual; on which the vice-president requested him not to use his name while he continued at his house.

Mr. Burr proceeded to Philadelphia, and excited much indignation by a public appearance; but though not pursued by the arm of justice, his situation could not possibly be agreeable, and we soon find him in the state of Tennessee. In that country he possessed lands, and he took this opportunity of visiting these estates, which

which afforded him a safe retreat, the victim of his resentment being little known in that part of the Union.

In this retirement he was still vice-president of the American commonwealth, and it is not less true than surprising, that, notwithstanding his recent violation of the law, and though the warrant of one of the federate states was in force to apprehend him as a murderer, he still exercised the functions of that office. "I saw him sit," says the author of the *Stranger in America*, "in the vice-presidential chair, without any other notice than the whispers of resentment among the auditors in the galleries of the senate-chamber. He presided during the whole trial of the learned and persecuted Judge Chace. "The guilty sits in judgment on the innocent—the fugitive from his country arraigns at the bar of justice the judge himself."—Such were the comments I frequently heard among the auditors during the proceedings of that impeachment. The venerable federal magistrate, called to the superior bench of justice by Washington, was, by a democratic senate, honorably, most honorably acquitted."

For more than a year after the unfortunate rencounter with General Hamilton, did the United States exhibit the extraordinary and humiliating spectacle of the second magistrate in the commonwealth, and a man proscribed for murder, united in one and the same person; nor was it until the expiration of the term for which he was elected, that Mr. Burr returned to Tenessee, and again buried himself in obscurity.

There, however, he did not long remain, being destined to re-appear on the political theatre, if not with greater honor, at least with greater *eclat* than ever,

ever. Information was received at the seat of government, that, in his privacy, Mr. Burr was maturing the plan of a revolution, which had for its object the separation of the western territory from the federal union.

From all that can be collected relative to this subject, it would appear, that when he found all the avenues to the higher offices in the state closed against him, his ambition, and, perhaps, some tincture of revenge for the just resentment of his countrymen, prompted him to engage in some such desperate undertaking. Being at Washington, in the winter of 1806, he is said to have there disclosed his project to General Eaton, whose expedition against Tripoli, in Africa, is of recent celebrity. He had heard of the bold and enterprizing character of that officer; believing him to be a mere soldier of fortune, and ready to engage in any cause that promised a harvest of military glory. Burr proposed to him that he should join his desperate fortunes, go with him to the Mississippi, take the rank of a general officer under him as commander in chief, erect the standard of rebellion against the United States, sever the Union, and establish a distinct and independent government, to be composed of all the states west of the Alleghany Mountains. Such was the general project, the minute details of which were particularly stated. General Eaton was struck with horror, and stood aghast at the proposal, which he communicated to the president of the United States.

This is the account given in the American prints. For its accuracy we cannot vouch; but we may venture to make this observation, that, with the know-

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ledge of the world which Colonel Burr must be supposed to possess, it appears extremely improbable he should have made a discovery so important and so deeply affecting his interests and fortunes, to a person with whose sentiments he was not thoroughly acquainted.

Though the government at first seemed to treat the information received on this subject with perfect indifference, yet subsequent occurrences in the western territory, such as the building of boats on the Ohio, and a variety of movements indicating a spirit of revolt, have drawn its attention to that quarter of the union. The only particulars of these operations on which any reliance can be placed, are contained in President Jefferson's message of January 22d, 1807, to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States. As it affords a complete developement of the projects of Colonel Burr, we shall not hesitate to lay the entire document before our readers.

"Agreeably to the request of the House of Representatives, communicated in their resolution of the 16th inst. I proceed to state, under the reserve therein expressed, information received, touching an illegal combination of private individuals against the peace and safety of the Union, and a military expedition planned by them against the territories of a power in amity with the United States, with the measures I have pursued for suppressing the same.

"I had, for some time, been in the constant expectation of receiving such further information as would have enabled me to lay before the legislature, the termination, as well as the beginning and progress, of this scene of depravity, so far as it has been acted on the

the Ohio and its waters. From this, the state of safety of the lower country might have been estimated on probable grounds, and the delay was indulged the rather, because no circumstance had yet made it necessary to call in the aid of the legislative functions. Information now recently communicated, has brought us nearly to the period contemplated. The mass of what I have received in the course of these transactions is voluminous; but little has been given under the sanction of an oath, so as to constitute formal and legal evidence. It is chiefly in the form of letters, often containing such a mixture of rumours, conjectures, and suspicions, as render it difficult to sift out the real facts, and unadvisable to hazard more than general outlines, strengthened by concurrent information, or the particular credibility of the relator. In this state of the evidence, delivered sometimes under the restriction of private confidence, neither safety nor justice will permit the exposing names, except that of the principal actor, whose guilt is placed beyond question.

"Some time in the latter part of September, I received intimation that designs were in agitation in the western country, unlawful and unfriendly to the peace of the Union; and that the prime mover in these was Aaron Burr, heretofore distinguished by the favour of his country. The grounds of these intimations being inconclusive, the objects uncertain, and the fidelity of that country known to be firm, the only measure taken, was to urge the informants to use their best endeavours to get further insight into the designs and proceedings of the suspected persons, and to communicate them to me.

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It was not till the latter part of October that the objects of the conspiracy began to be perceived, but still so blended and involved in mystery, that nothing distinct could be singled out for pursuit. In this state of uncertainty, as to the crime contemplated, the acts done, and the legal course to be pursued, I thought it best to send to the scene, where these things were principally in transaction, a person in whose integrity, understanding, and discretion, entire confidence could be reposed, with instructions to investigate the plots going on, to enter into conference (for which he had sufficient credentials) with governors, and all other officers, civil and military; and, with their aid, to do on the spot whatever should be necessary to discover the designs of the conspirators; arrest their means, bring their persons to punishment, and to call out the force of the country to suppress any unlawful enterterprise, in which it should be found they were engaged. By this time it was known that many boats were under preparation, stores of provisions collecting, and an unusual number of suspicious characters in motion on the Ohio, and its waters. Besides dispatching the confidential agent to this quarter, orders were at the same time sent to the governors of the Orleans and Mississippi territories, and to the commanders of the land and naval forces there, to be on their guard against surprise, and in constant readiness to resist any enterprise which might be attempted on the vessels, posts, or other objects under their care; and, on the 8th of November, instructions were forwarded to General Wilkinson, to hasten an accommodation with the Spanish commandant on the Sabine; and, as soon as that was effected, to fall back with

his principal force to the hither bank of the Mississippi, for the defence of the interesting points on that river. By a letter received from that officer on the 25th of November, but dated Oct. 21st, we learned, that a confidential agent of Aaron Burr had been deputed to him with communications, partly written in cypher, and partly oral, explaining his designs, exaggerating his resources, and, making such offers of emolument and command, to engage him and his army in his unlawful enterprise, as he had flattered himself would be successful. The general, with the honor of a soldier, and fidelity of a good citizen, immediately dispatched a trusty officer to me, with information of what had passed, proceeded to establish such an understanding with the Spanish commandant on the Sabine, as permitted him to withdraw his force across the Mississippi, and to enter on measures for opposing the projected enterprise.

"The general's letter, which came to hand on the 25th of November, as has been mentioned, and some other information, received a few days earlier, when brought together, developed Burr's general designs, different parts of which only had been revealed to different informants. It appeared that he contemplated two distinct objects, which might be carried on either jointly or separately, and either the one or the other first as circumstances should direct. One of these was the severance of the union of these states by the Alleghany mountains, the other an attack on Mexico. A third object was provided, merely ostensible, to wit, the settlement of the pretended purchase of a tract of country on the Washita, claimed by a Baron Bastrop. This was to serve as the pretext for all his preparations;

tions; an allurement for such followers as really wished to acquire settlements in that country; and a cover, under which to retreat, in the event of a final discomfiture of both branches of his real design.

"He found at once that the attachment of the western country to the present Union was not to be shaken; that its dissolution could not be effected without the consent of its inhabitants; and that his resources were inadequate, as yet, to effect it by force. He took his course then at once, determined to seize on New Orleans, plunder the bank there, possess himself of the military and naval stores, and proceed on his expedition to Mexico; and to this object all his means and preparations were now directed. He collected from all quarters where himself or his agents possessed influence, all the ardent, restless, desperate, and disaffected persons who were ready for any enterprise analogous to their characters. He seduced good and well meaning citizens, some by assurances that he possessed the confidence of the government, and was acting under its secret patronage: a pretence which procured some credit from the state of our differences with Spain: and others, by offers of land in Bastrop's claim on the Washita.

"This was the state of my information of his proceedings about the last of November; at which time, therefore, it was first possible to take specific measures to meet them. The proclamation of November 27th, two days after the receipt of General Wilkinson's information, was now issued. Orders were dispatched to every interesting point on the Ohio and Mississippi, from Pittsburg to New Orleans, for the employment of such forces, either of the regulars or of the militia,

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and of such proceedings also of the civil authorities, as might enable them to seize on all boats and stores provided for the enterprize, to arrest the persons concerned, and to suppress effectually the further progress of the enterprize. A little before the receipt of these orders in the state of Ohio, our confidential agent, who had been diligently employed in investigating the conspiracy, had acquired sufficient information to open himself to the governor of that state, and to apply for the immediate exertion of the authority and power of the state to crush the combination. Governor Tiffin and the legislature, with a promptitude, an energy, and patriotic zeal, which entitle them to a distinguished place in the affection of their sister states, effected the seizure of all the boats, provisions, and other preparations within their reach, and thus gave a first blow, materially disabling the enterprize in its outset.

"In Kentucky, a premature attempt to bring Burr to justice, without sufficient evidence for his conviction, had produced a popular impression in his favour, and a general disbelief of his guilt. This gave him an unfortunate oppportunity of hastening his equipments. The arrival of the proclamation and orders, and the application and information of our confidential agent, at length awakened the authorities of that state to the truth, and then produced the same promptitude and energy of which the neighbouring state had set the example. Under an act of that legislature, of December 23, the militia was instantly ordered to different important points, and measures taken for doing whatever could yet be done. Some boats (accounts vary from five to double or treble that number) and persons, (differently estimated from one

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to three hundred) had, in the mean time, passed the falls of Ohio, to rendezvous at the mouth of Cumberland with others expected down that river. Not apprized, till very late, that any boats were building on Cumberland, the effect of the proclamation had been trusted to for some time in the State of Tenessee. But, on the 19th of December, similar communications and instructions with those to the neighbouring States, were dispatched, by express, to the governor, and a general officer of the Western division of the state; and, on the 23d of December, our confidential agent left Frankfort for Nashville, to put into activity the means of that state also. But, by information received yesterday, I learn, that on the 22d of December, Mr. Burr descended the Cumberland with two boats, merely of accommodation, carrying with him, from that state, no quota towards his unlawful enterprize. Whether, after the arrival of the proclamation of the orders, or our agent, any exertion which could be made by that state, or the orders of the governor of Kentucky, for calling out the militia at the mouth of Cumberland, would be in time to arrest these boats, and those from the falls of Ohio, is still doubtful.

"On the whole, the fugitives from the Ohio, with their associates from Cumberland, or any other place in that quarter, cannot threaten serious danger to the city of New Orleans.

"By the same express of December 19, orders were sent to the governors of Orleans and Mississippi, supplementary to those which had been given on the 25th of November, to hold the militia of their territories in readiness to co-operate for their defence with the regular

gular troops and armed vessels then under command of General Wilkinson. Great alarm was indeed excited at New Orleans by the exaggerated accounts of Mr. Burr, disseminated through his emissaries, of the armies and navies he was to assemble there. General Wilkinson had arrived there himself on the 24th of November, and had immediately put into activity the resources of the place, for the purpose of its defence; and on the 10th of December he was joined by his troops from the Sabine. Great zeal was shewn by the inhabitants generally; the merchants of the place readily agreeing to the most laudable exertions and sacrifices, for manning the armed vessels with their seamen; and the other citizens manifesting unequivocal fidelity to the Union, and a spirit of determined resistance to their expected assailants.

"Some surmises have been hazarded that this enterprize is to receive aid from certain foreign powers. —*But these surmises are without proof or probability.* The wisdom of the measures sanctioned by Congress at its last session, has placed us in the paths of peace and justice, with the only powers with whom we had any differences; and nothing has happened since which makes it either their interest or ours to pursue another course. No change of measure has taken place on our part; none ought to take place at this time. With the one, friendly arrangement was proposed, and the law, deemed necessary on the failure of that, was suspended, to give time for a fair trial of the issue. With the same power, friendly arrangement was proceeding under good expectations. With the other, negociation was in like manner preferred, and provisional measures, only taken to meet the event of rup-

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ture. While therefore, we do not deflect in the slightest degree from the course we then assumed, and are still pursuing, with mutual consent, to restore a good understanding, we are not to impute to them practices as irreconcileable to interest as to good faith, and changing necessarily the relations of peace and justice between us to those of war. These surmises are therefore to be imputed to the vaunting of the author of this enterprize, to multiply his partizans, by magnifying the belief of his prospects and support.

"By letters from General Wilkinson, of the 14th and 18th of December, which came to hand two days after the date of the resolution of the house of representatives, that is to say, on the morning of the 18th inst. I received the important affidavit, a copy of which I now communicate, with extracts of so much of the letters as comes within the scope of the resolutions. By these it will be seen, that of three of the principal emissaries of Burr, whom the general caused to be apprehended, one had been liberated by Habeas Corpus: and two others, being those principally employed in the endeavour to corrupt the general and army of the United states, have been embarked by him, for ports in the Atlantic States, probably on the consideration that an impartial trial could not be expected during the present agitations of New Orleans; and that that city was not as yet a safe place of confinement. As soon as these persons shall arrive, they will be delivered to the custody of the law, and left to such course of trial, both as to place and process, as its functionaries may direct. The presence of the highest judicial authorities, to be assembled at this place within a few days, the means of pursuing a sounder course of proceeding here than

than elsewhere, and the aid of the executive means, should the judges have occasion to use them, render it equally desirable for the criminals, as for the public; that being already removed from the place where they were first apprehended, the first regular arrest should take place here, and the course of proceedings receive here their proper direction."

One of the emissaries of Colonel Burr, whom Mr. Jefferson in this communication mentions as having been apprehended by the commander-in-chief of the American army, is Dr. Bollmann, a native of his Britannic Majesty's German dominions, a man qualified by nature for bold undertakings, and by education and habit for conducting them with plausibility and address. After a variety of singular adventures in France and Germany, among which the share he contributed to the release of the celebrated La Fayette from his confinement in Prussia and Austria, was not the least remarkable, he settled in America where he engaged in extensive mercantile speculations, but soon failed for the sum, it is said, of two hundred thousand dollars. The hope of repairing his broken fortunes probably induced him to participate the more readily in the projects of Colonel Burr, who is suspected of having for many years meditated the enterprize in which he is engaged, and is said to have tried and tempted almost every man of talents in the country.

On the apprehension of Dr. Bollmann, a writ of Habeas Corpus was procured in his behalf. The return made to it by General Wilkinson is a curious document of the preponderance of republican military power, over the authority of the civil law. It is as follows:—

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"The undersigned, commanding the army of the United States, takes on himself all responsibility for the arrest of Eric Bollmann, on a charge of misprision of treason against the government of the United States, and has adopted measures for his safe delivery to the executive of the United States. It was after several consultations with the governor and the two judges of this territory, that the undersigned has hazarded this step, for the national safety, menaced to its base by a lawless band of traitors associated under A. Burr, whose accomplices are extended from New York to this city. No man can hold in higher reverence the civil institutions of his country than the undersigned, and it is to maintain and perpetuate the holy attributes of this constitution against the uplifted hands of violence, that he has interposed the force of arms in a moment of extreme peril, to seize upon Bollmann, as he will upon all others against whom satisfactory proof may arise of a participation in the lawless combination.

"JAMES WILKINSON."

"Head-Quarters, army of the United States,
New Orleans, December 17, 1806."

In consequence of Mr. Burr's proceedings, an attempt was made by the American government to suspend the Habeas Corpus act. A bill to that effect originated and passed in the senate; but, on the first reading in the house of representatives, Mr. John Randolph arraigned the conduct of the government with great severity. He characterized the conduct of the commander-in-chief as a monstrous, violent, and outrageous usurpation of authority, in seizing and trans-

porting two citizens of the United States, of his own arbitrary will, and refusing them the benefit of the writ of Habeas Corpus,* or even a hearing before a court. He contended that Burr's conspiracy, as it was denominated, was a mere intrigue, nothing comparable to the western insurrection, when no such tyrannic measure was even thought of. He declared that the contest now was, whether Americans were to be under a civil or a military government; whether by passing this law, the house would connive at the violation of all law that had been committed by General Wilkinson at New Orleans. "As well," continued Mr. Randolph, "might he have transported these men to Botany Bay: a mortal wound has been attempted upon the constitution; but the house, I hope and believe, will not countenance it." The same sentiments as were expressed by Mr. Randolph animated the bosoms of many other American legislators, and the bill was rejected by a large majority.

The latest information that has reached Europe, relative to Mr. Burr, is afforded by a second message from the president, delivered to congress on the 10th of February. It contained extracts from a letter written by Mr. Mead, acting-governor of the Mississippi territory, to the Secretary at war, stating that Mr. Burr was then about 45 miles above Natchez, descending the Mississippi; that he had received a letter from him, containing assurances that his object was nothing injurious to the integrity of the Union, and that he had no intention to violate the Spanish territory. His letter also hinted at the impropriety of resisting him, and the danger of a civil war. Mr. Mead added, that the day before he received this letter he had issued or-

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ders for Burr's arrest, and he expected in a few days to have that "troublesome man" in his possession.

Thus it appears that the American republic, which has so long avoided being involved in the wars of Europe, and has, in consequence, almost exclusively enjoyed the carrying trade of all the belligerent powers, is at length becoming a prey to internal discord; and we have little doubt that a very few years will divide that extensive country into one or more monarchical governments, or what is still worse, into factious democracies.

We know not that the observation has been made before, but to us it seems not improbable that some connection may exist between the design of Burr, and the enterprize in which Miranda about a year ago embarked. The impossibility of equipping with the requisite secrecy and dispatch a force sufficient to effect any thing of importance, together with the measures adopted, though rather late, by the American government, will doubtless operate to the disappointment of all Mr. Burr's ambitious schemes, which may be pronounced as unnatural on the one hand as they are unjustifiable on the other.

MR. WAITHMAN.

"What better cause can call your lightning forth?
Your thunder wake? Your dearest life demand?
What better cause, than when your country sees
The sly destruction at her vitals aim'd?"

THOMSON.

WHENEVER an individual has distinguished himself by a superiority of talent, or of effort, our curiosity is naturally excited respecting him; and we feel an interest in learning by what means and circumstances he may have risen into eminence. In pursuing the requisite enquiries, we experience additional gratification on perceiving the human mind, without the fortuitous aids of birth, fortune, or connection, bursting forth, surmounting every opposing barrier, and, by its own native energy alone, establishing an elevated position on the scale of intellect.

These prefatory remarks are peculiarly applicable to the subject of this memoir; one who never sang upon the banks of the Isis, or courted the muses on the inviting borders of the Cam. Yet, during as momentous a period as any that occurs in our history, no one has so much distinguished himself, in all the public discussions which have taken place at the various meetings of the livery and of the corporation of London,

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as Mr. Robert Waithman, of New-Bridge-street, Black-friars. The active and able part which he has uniformly taken on all such occasions, from the year 1793 to the present period, must, we conceive, render a short retrospect of his character and public conduct highly acceptable to our readers; and shew that such disadvantages as those which we have alluded to, howsoever they may retard, cannot wholly prevent a mind, naturally strong, warmed and animated in the cause which it undertakes, from obtaining that weight and respect in society, for which it seemed peculiarly formed.

The father of Mr. Waithman was born of respectable parents, at the village of Warton, near Lancaster, in which neighbourhood, we understand, several of the name now reside. Settling in Wales, he married the daughter of a respectable farmer, near Wrexham, whose maiden name was Roberts. At this place Mr. Waithman was born. His father dying when he was only a few months old, his maternal parent afterwards resided with her father and mother; with whom he also remained till about ten years of age. The latter part of the time he went to school at Wrexham. At this early period of life he left Wales, and was taken under the protection of an uncle, who was established in an extensive line of business, in the linen and lace trade, at Bath. Here he continued at school, until about his fifteenth year, when he had the misfortune of losing, by the death of his uncle, a second parent, from whom he had experienced the utmost kindness and indulgence. After his uncle's death, he was placed in a respectable house in the linen trade, in the city of London.—Under these circumstances, it is scarcely

necessary to observe, that he could not have received many advantages from education. Whatever progress he has made in useful knowledge has been by his own application. His evenings he mostly devoted to reading. At a very early period he was particularly attached to poetical and dramatic works, which he used occasionally to recite for his amusement. This, it is not unlikely, may have arisen from his having, while at Bath, been to school with a Mr. Moore, who had previously been an eminent performer on the Bath stage, and on intimate terms with the late celebrated Mr. Henderson.

In the beginning of the year 1787, when only twenty-two years old, with only a small property, part of which had been left him by his uncle, and part of it arising from the sale of a small estate derived from his father, Mr. Waithman embarked in business, near to the spot where he has now long resided, and has ever since successfully carried on extensive dealings in the linen trade. Soon after commencing business, he married Miss Davies, (his first cousin) with whom he has lived ever since in the most uninterrupted felicity; having a numerous family of children.

For some years after Mr. Waithman had embarked in trade, although he had uniformly been, even during the American war, an attentive observer of passing events, and had felt an interest in public measures, he took no active part in political affairs. His habits were entirely domestic. About the year 1793, when the nation was so much agitated and divided, and the French revolution excited universal attention, he began, for the first time, to take a public part. At that time, he distinguished himself at several public meet-

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ings holden to oppose a bill which went to deprive the citizens of London of their ancient right of defending themselves, by a force out of their own body, and to substitute a militia subject to the control of the crown.

In February, 1795, was holden one of the most numerous meetings of the livery ever known, amounting, as is supposed, to above 4000 in number, for the purpose of petitioning against the war. Mr. Waithman had been prevailed upon to assist in bringing forward the petition, which declared, "That none of the ob-"jects for which the war was undertaken had been, or "appeared likely to be, obtained, although carried on "with a great loss of blood and treasure; and prayed "the House to take such steps as might terminate hos-"tilities, on terms consistent with the honor and dig-"nity of the nation." The motion for this petition was most ably supported by Mr. Waithman, and carried by a great majority. From this moment he gained considerable weight and credit with those who acted upon the same conviction with himself; and of course was the object of abuse from those of opposite opinions.

The following year, Mr. Waithman moved several resolutions and petitions at the common-hall, and at meetings of the ward of Farringdon without, against the Treason and Sedition bills; which were not only carried, but were followed by similar proceedings in every county, town, and city, throughout the kingdom. His conduct on this occasion induced several respectable inhabitants of the ward, without his solicitation, to propose him as a candidate to represent them in common-council; to which he was, and has ever since been, elected by a great majority. From this time,

Mr.

Mr. Waithman took a very active and leading part; not only on all political questions agitated in the court of common-council, and at meetings of the livery in common-hall, but such also as concerned the local interests of his fellow-citizens. We shall not here attempt to enumerate the various occasions upon which he distinguished himself; but shall content ourselves with briefly noticing some which we conceive too important to be passed over in silence.

Several common-halls were holden in the months of March, April, and May, and a petition to the King against the continuance of the war, and various resolutions to the same effect, were entered into. Upon his Majesty's refusing to receive the petition of the livery upon the throne, from the common hall, Mr. Waithman took a conspicuous part in arranging and conducting the proceedings of one of these meetings. The Lord Mayor (Sir B. Watson) objecting to some of the resolutions, as reflecting upon his Majesty's ministers, Mr. Waithman, in a speech of great spirit, maintained that such conduct was a violation of the undoubted rights of the livery, and persisted in moving the resolution; upon which the lord mayor dissolved the hall. At a subsequent hall, he brought forward the same motions, which were carried, and a vote of censure was passed on the lord mayor for his conduct.

Mr. Alderman Combe having been passed over by the court of aldermen, although next in rotation for the office of lord mayor, in the year 1799, Mr. Waithman took a memorable part in the election, by proposing Mr. Alderman Skinner, who had passed the chair, to be nominated with Alderman Combe.—The court

of aldermen persisting to reject Alderman Combe, another election took place; and the livery still making the same return, the court of aldermen were at length compelled to elect the object of the livery's choice. No event had ever excited the indignation of the livery more than the conduct of the court of aldermen on this occasion: their objections to Mr. Alderman Combe were entirely political; and nothing could have placed Mr. Waithman higher in the opinion of the citizens of London, and of the people throughout the country, who took an interest in this contest, than his zeal and ability, which he here displayed, although opposed by the common serjeant, and other city officers. Indeed, men of all parties agreed in espousing the cause of Mr. Combe.—The same year Mr. Waithman moved an address to the King, in the court of common-council, praying for an enquiry into the cause of the failure of the expedition to Holland, which was negatived. On the 10th of February, 1800, he moved several resolutions at the common hall, which was remarkably crouded, and a petition to the House of Commons, on the rejection of the overtures for peace made by Buonaparte. This petition was drawn up with uncommon force, and prayed the house to take such steps as might promote a peace between the two countries. Mr. Waithman had, in this instance, the satisfaction of finding his motions carried by a large majority.

During the years 1800 and 1801, we find Mr. Waithman strongly interesting himself in various enquiries that took place respecting the cause of the great scarcity which prevailed, and of the consequent enormous high price of provisions. In addition to several measures

sures which he brought forward on the subject, in the court of common-council, he published a pamphlet, attributing the cause of scarcity principally to the war, and pointing out what appeared to him as the most effectual remedies. This little work, which passed through several editions, displayed a thorough knowledge of the subject; and, from the laudable motive on which it was undertaken, reflected much credit on its philanthropic author. Mr. Waithman's exertions did not rest even here; for he also moved, in the common-council, an address to his Majesty, praying him to convene the parliament, to consider of means for alleviating the distresses of the public, which was carried by a great majority. About this time Mr. Waithman likewise proposed several resolutions and petitions which were carried, respecting the assessed taxes, and that most obnoxious of political measures, the income tax, both of which were ultimately repealed.

In 1805, when the naval commissioners gave in their report concerning the abuses that prevailed in that department, in which Lord Melville was implicated, Mr. Waithman proposed, at the common hall, several resolutions, and a petition to the House of Commons on the subject; which were afterwards followed by the common council, and at various meetings throughout the kingdom.

In 1806, he brought forward an address, at common hall, to his Majesty, congratulating him on the late change of administration, and expressing their confidence, "That, by an entire change of system, a revision of past errors, and the establishing of a system of vigour, vigilance, and economy, our public affairs might be retrieved, and the peace, prosperity,

"and

"and liberties of the people, fixed on a firm and last-"ing foundation."

At two or three city meetings, which have been holden since the dissolution of the Grenville and Howick ministry, the subject of this memoir, with his accustomed spirit and perseverance, has stood conspicuously forward.

To many of our readers, it must be obvious, that we have here only stated a few of the principal occasions on which Mr, Waithman has distinguished himself. On all such, he has acquitted himself with great resolution, presence of mind, and ability; and, in one instance, he received the unanimous thanks of the common hall, for the able manner in which he conducted the proceedings.—His eloquence, from a bold, manly energetic delivery, appears peculiarly adapted for a large mixed audience: whether he would be equally successful in a more select assembly we are not so competent to say. It is certain however, that no one in our recollection has addressed the populous meetings of the livery so successfully, or gained so complete a possession of their attention.

At the general election before the last, several liverymen expressed a desire of his offering himself for the city; for which he was proposed at the hall. But Mr. Waithman declaring that he had no such intention, and that he had been proposed without his knowledge, declined the intended honour, although he had a respectable shew of hands in his favour.

Mr.

Mr. JAMES WARD.

IT has been said no less poetically than truly, that "a brave man struggling with the storms of fate," may be supposed to exhibit a noble sight to the view of the Creator. A *good* and an *ingenious* one, under the same circumstances, fighting his way through manifold obstructions, maintaining his ground, in despite of opposition, and ultimately erecting a splendid, a solid, fabric of genius and virtue, firm as on a rock, with no other assistance than native talents, and native probity, cannot be less interesting to man, nor less acceptable to God. Well convinced that sure examples are productive of good by inspiring generous emulation, we sedulously bring them forward whenever they come within our notice; and it is therefore with peculiar satisfaction we allow

"Ample scope and virge enough"

to the subsequent memoir of James Ward.

This gentleman was born on the 23d of October, 1769, in Thames-street, the last but one of five children. By a too powerful propension to convivial pleasure, the affairs of his father became so reduced, that the subject of our narrative was compelled to contribute his feeble assistance to the support of the family

mily, at the early age of eight years, when he first laboured with his father, a fruiterer and cyder-merchant; who, from this misfortune, now acted as foreman in the business of which he once was master. Here our artist laboured from six in the morning to eight at night, direfully sacrificing those hours which might have afforded him the first rudiments of education; but which was, hence, perverted to that of being taught bottle-companion songs and sentiments. The support of the family, therefore, rested almost exclusively upon our young artist and his mother, of whom it is but bare justice to say, that there has never lived a brighter example of noble fortitude, firm temper, long-tried patience, and unwearied, chearful exertion in the discharge of every conjugal and maternal affection. We understand that this admirable woman still lives, after having braved the complicated tempest of life with true courage and true virtue; and she has now the delight to receive from those children all the softest consolations of filial piety.

The subject of these memoirs, was afterwards removed to the warehouse of a merchant in the neighbourhood, where he remained in laborious employment, until he had nearly attained his thirteenth year; when an opening presented itself for his removal into that path which nature herself had pointed out as; at least, as one of those wherein he should walk, and in which he has since given us such valuable testimonies that it led to fame, fortune, and every honourable distinction.

An eminent engraver, with whom his elder brother, William Ward, was then apprenticed, and nearly out of his time, having occasion for a youth, proposed receiving

ceiving him on the following liberal terms, viz. to serve two years before he was bound for seven, which was to be the consideration in lieu of a premium. This was cheerfully agreed to; but it should be observed, that some specimen of his drawing was required, by way of ascertaining how far, under encouragement, his genius promised to keep pace with his love of the arts. But alas! he had none to shew, active and ardent as he was to learn, he could not boast the advantages of his brother, whose early powers had every instruction to

"Teach the young idea how to shoot."

Drawing had made part of the school education, in which William was considered a great proficient, but the mind of our, as yet boyish, artist, had unfortunately been led into a far different and less congenial track. Instead of the rudimental drawings of eyes, hands, heads, &c. from books, in a progressive exercise of academic tuition, by which William's genius was cultured and recommended, our unschooled stripling, a true child of nature, was left to his own powers. He had often sketched horses, carts, &c. as they passed his window, but full at once of the vigour, the vivacity, and the diffidence of talent, these were distributed among his acquaintance as playthings of the juvenile pencil nothing worth. We have seen, however, some of his first efforts, after he had been fixed with the above-mentioned engraver, which, in defiance of the rude materials on which they are executed, may be termed almost *fac similes*. These, we recollect, were after Le Brun's *passions*, and indicated the germ of that fair fruit which has since sprung up and prospered.

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At the expiration of a year in this situation, in which the study of drawing employed the least part of his time, (being considered rather an attendant in the shop, than a pupil of art,) the following curious circumstance occurred to produce another change in his eventful life. His master had a pet terrier, which was no less the favourite of our youth, who taught him a variety of humorous tricks, and who consequently followed him about the town. This dog was one day unfortunately lost, beyond the power of the lad's utmost diligence and anxiety to recover him.

The conduct of his master upon this occasion, could by no means be tolerated by our young student, who, although ever humble, meek, and respectful to the kind hearted, has, from his earliest days, been firm and towering to the haughty and tyrannical. Under the sanction therefore of his brother, and of all those who witnessed the transaction, a separation was deemed advisable, and was soon proposed; but not allowed, before his master, now sensible of the loss he was about to sustain, had secured to himself an advantage to counterbalance the sacrifice; namely, that of engaging William Ward, then nearly out of his time, and the best metzotinto engraver of the day, in a promise, not to work for any other person for three years. We mention this because it was attended with great disadvantages to James, on account of his brother being scarcely ever at home in the course of that period; this however was settled, and he removed to the lodgings of William, who was now his master and his brother. Under his auspices our youth recommenced the year following as a premium, and was then bound for seven. At this period, a very perilous one to a youth of ge-

nius, James was left alone for days and months without any regular employment, that could benefit him in the arts; for a thorough knowledge of drawing was not considered essential to an engraver, beyond the head and hands, on which he sometimes practised a few hours; but was by no means urged to it, and *that* time which might have been so successfully devoted to studies at the Royal Academy or elsewhere, left a vacuity for the mind to prey upon, and was given up to the trifling pursuits of breeding Canary-birds, &c. raising flowers, and making cages and cabinets for those purposes; in the last of which he found much pleasure, being naturally of a mechanical turn: he never looked out of himself for things of that nature; whatever he desired, whatever he wanted, it was his pleasure and his pride to derive it from an exertion of his own powers, nor was he content unless he made some improvement upon what he had seen, on a similar article, either in construction or ornament. All this, however, was but sickly food to a mind that was made for much higher operations, and ever hunting after something more important to fill its grasp.

About this time a young artist, who has since figured in the world, was introduced to Mr. Ward's family. This was no other than the celebrated MORLAND: between whom and young Ward, an intimacy that might be expected, took place. He soon had a bed in the house, which was considered as one of his homes: and for some time he became a part, and that a very distinguished one, of the family. William Ward and young Morland now worked in the same room: the character of his eccentric, though ingenious associate is now so well known to the public, that

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it is almost needless to observe, the domestic comforts of the family were much broken in upon by its new inmate. Every kind of prank and extravagant freak now went forward, in many of which the impressive and animated mind of our youth was led to take a share; and although naturally inclined to pleasures of a more pensive cast, was by no means backward in partaking, or inventing a frolic. It would extend too far beyond our limits, to enter into the detail of the achievements of two such spirits, each stimulating the other.

We will however mention one or two as having some degree of danger attached to them. Once late at night, when Mr. W. Ward's father was returning home in a covered chaise-cart laden with provisions, and J. Ward and Morland also riding home, stopped the old man in the counterfeited character of highwaymen; when, after alarming and harassing the person attacked, they enjoyed the manner in which, Falstaf like, the old man magnified and multiplied them, their horses &c.; but had he travelled that night with pistols as was not unfrequently his practice, it might have proved fatal: as was indeed likely to have been the case on another occasion, when our two artists were trying pistols at a mark on the door of an outhouse, inside which, was the same old gentleman.

Morland, however, grew in reputation as a painter, from every touch of his pencil. He took the first opportunity of introducing one of his sisters to Mr. W. Ward, and the consequence was, that a new family arrangement took place by the young painter and engraver becoming brothers; Mr. W. Ward married Maria Morland, and Mr. Morland Ann Ward; and here the

singularity of Morland's character was kept up and exhibited, by his taking a brace of large horse-pistols to church with him: but as he now appeared at least to carry the external marks of good nature, all these absurdities were overlooked as the ebullitions of genius, and just throwing off the yoke of apprenticeship. It would be very difficult to find a being more perfect, than Morland's wife, and, therefore, great hopes were entertained of their happiness; alas! how short sighted are mortals! and how uncertain all human felicity! the world is now but too well acquainted with the fate of that hapless woman, as well as of her husband: but scarcely any one in that world can form any idea of the nature of her *diversified* sufferings, nor can the subject of these memoirs ever hear her named, as we have too often witnessed, but with the severest and most heartfelt pangs. No sooner were the two artists united to their respective sisters, than it was thought prudent to remove to London. This was soon accomplished; but, as if with the new alliance, a new spirit, and that an evil one, was introduced, all was irregularity, uncertainty, and disorder, and the family were separated by a constant succession of removals which filled up the remaining space of James Ward's apprenticeship. He now resided in Camden Town, in which neighbourhood he remained until he left his master, which was in the year 1792, four years previously to which we must look at him as a proficient in the art of engraving, some specimens of which were published in the course of that period with the name of W. Ward, but which we know were the almost entire works of James, particularly the landscapes, in which he always evinced a peculiar taste and without which, perhaps we

never should have seen that character of nature attempted in Mezzotinto, in which it was considered almost impossible to represent it; but when we look at the print of Children at Play, of Travellers, and Cottagers, and a View of Leicesterhire, all after Morland, the three first with the name of W. Ward and the last with the name of James, done soon after he left his brother (there were many others, but these stand among the first), we discover the same hand in them all; and are compelled to acknowledge, that, treated in that stile, this line of engraving is equal to any ever practised, and possessing some peculiar character above them all. The proficiency of James, as an engraver, rendered him at this time very valuable to his master, who, now deriving advantage from every thing he did, allowed him some work for himself, which was an increased stimulus acting in unison with that spirit of emulation so natural to him. He now fixed upon objects more important; his execution of which, produced the constant expressions of surprise and admiration, from all who saw the rapid strides he was making to perfection. This, with the great attention demonstrated by persons of great respectability, who had formerly shewn no sort of regard to either him, or his labours, all combined to urge him to the most strenuous exertion for the possession of every thing he felt the want of, so that the night and the day were too short for his labours. At this time, indeed, he considered sleep as a loss of time, and he was impatient under the necessity of yielding even to exhausted nature; and, having understood, that by the force of habit the operations of sleep itself might be counteracted, he determined to limit his repose to two or three hours, and

and accordingly procured an alarm bell near the head of his bed, which answered every purpose for a length of time; but at last failing, he engaged the watchman to pull him out of bed by a chord fastened to his wrist, which succeeded for a considerable period, but at length this failed also. Nature, all powerful, triumphed, or shall we say *habit*, for he would mechanically remove the strap from his wrist without being conscious of the action, as it did not disturb his repose; at this period, in the last year of his time, a fresh object of more than usual interest and difficulty presented itself, and of which his mind had never formed an idea. His brother-in-law, Morland, took a house in the same row in which Mr. W. Ward resided, and a close intimacy took place between the families. Our student now often associated with this celebrated artist, and, joining in some of his sports, became a favourite. They rode together, practised sparring and boxing, and sometimes used to resign the pencil to assume the pen, with which they made doggrel rhimes, and, rather in frolic than malice, lampooned their acquaintance. During this intercourse, Morland expressed a wish to know something of engraving; for which purpose he procured him a copper ground, &c. Young Ward found, meanwhile, particular pleasure in the company of Morland, more particularly to see him paint. This nourished an admiration of the art, although nothing was at that period further from his thoughts than ever to attempt painting himself, on a systematic principle; and his boyish sketches were forgot almost by himself, nor, at the time, did any thing pass more upon the subject, of which we can have no stronger proof than the following. So profoundly ignorant,

rant, indeed, was he at this time of an art in which he now so eminently excels, that the only way in which he could acquire even the names of the different colours was by sending to Morland's colourman for a complete set of bladders, with a *label* on each. It may be pleasant in this place to relate the first inducement he had to take up the pallet, as it will confirm the long established remark of the most important effects resulting from the slightest causes: and as Pope says:

"All *chance, direction*, which we cannot see."

An accident having happened to a picture which his master had to engrave, he procured a few colours to mend it, which being accomplished beyond his hopes, and some colours remaining, he took up an old piece of canvass and attempted a tree. Finding this *come out*, as the technical phrase is, far beyond his expectations, he immediately procured a cavass, and for his next effort sketched some pigs in the court yard of his master's next door neighbour. This experiment also succeeding, a picture of a sow and pigs was produced with a truth and spirit that astonished every spectator. This being instantly disposed of, our young painter, might well be supposed to "feel the God;" and his master, no less surprised than others, not only engaged him to paint a pair similar, but urged him by the most encouraging arguments, each of which met an echo in his own bosom, to pursue the study with ardour. Those pictures are still in existence; one is, of some sheep drinking, and the other, of pigs. They were last year sold at Robins's auction room at a price very gratifying to the artist, and more especially as they were

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in the lot with some of the works of Morland, and were by no means thought inferior to the sketches of that excellent master.*

It can only be conceived by men of genius what were the feelings of our artist at this rapid and unexpected accession of fame, in a new line of study. Indeed to paint *sheep and pigs* equal to Morland, might be said to increase his reputation from an ordinary mountain to the Alps. What further stimulus could be necessary to the enthusiasm of a mind filled at once with a new kindled and laudable ambition to deserve yet more of the honour he had acquired. But how was this to be pursued? He was still an apprentice; his time consequently at his master's disposal; and the thought even of fame has never been known to corrupt the principles of our artist. Fortunately, however, his master was now a near and dear relative—a brother—who admired, without envying, his genius, and to whom his integrity was not less known than his talents. He therefore allowed him to do as he pleased, satisfied that his love of one art would not seduce him to neglect his duty in another; but that both might, to a certain degree, be pursued to the relief and ornament of each other. Not however being able to paint by candle light, it was his custom to rise early enough in the morning for that purpose; and he had generally done with this new branch of his study before the usual hour of attention to his old one: and if, which was sometimes the case, the enchantments of painting betrayed him a few hours too far into his master's day, it was invariably made up at night; by which means, however, his nocturnal labour run far into the morning, and eager to perform his task both ways, he not unfrequently

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toiled alternately so hard and so long at the different instruments of office, that, at this period, neither larums nor watchmen could operate against exhausted nature; and

"Tir'd nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep,"

exacted her claims, and he rose with renovated powers to make up this necessary suspension. Nevertheless, before he would yield to his sovereign panacea, he would often work on till he was scarcely able to lift his hand to his head, from excessive fatigue: and he has been heard to declare to the contributor of this article, who is in the most intimate habits of his life and labour, that no degree of bodily toil, from the ploughshare or the spade, has, he was persuaded, ever produced the lassitude he has often experienced when retiring to his bed; upon which he has frequently sunk, without power to undress.

At this time also an object of another nature engrossed his attention, which, while in the onset, it increased his exertions, in the end, threw a gloom over all his prospects which threatened never to depart—a lady of great attractions and amiability engaged his affections to a degree that absorbed every other idea; and yet, from that peculiarity of delicate fear which is no less a marking characteristic of true genius than of true affection, he was induced, even while doating on her to an excess of fondness, never to declare his passion; on the contrary, when in her company his mind was always occupied by her presence, and every power of his art, impeded in its progress; he persevered in his silence till at length he understood she was engaged.

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This was, at that period, contemplated by Mr. Ward as the heaviest disappointment of his life.

But dropping this, and some after circumstances which, though interesting, would enlarge the article beyond its bounds, we will now follow Mr. Ward to the production of a third picture, which we believe is now in his possession, namely, of a white horse sheltering from a storm. It was hanging in his master's room when it caught the eye of Morland, who, after looking at it with earnest attention, made some comments upon the improvement of our artist's pencil. But it is to be remembered that Morland became from this point of time to be less satisfied at Mr. Ward's coming into his painting-room, and, not long after, a comparative separation as to personal intimacy took place, and the estrangement was obviously encreased by the sight of the only copy which Mr. Ward ever made after him, and which, upon the first glance, deceived Morland himself. This picture is still in the collection of our artist. About this period he left his brother William, and removed to the dwelling-house of his father at Hendon. Here his devotion to the pursuit of the pallet induced him to make an offer to Morland to bind himself for some years for his further instructions in painting, although he had but just been liberated from a nine years servitude. But Morland, perhaps very fortunately, for our artist, declined this proposition, accompanied by a candid acknowledgment, to some of his most intimate friends, that "Ward would get too forward." Being thus left to pick up information in the best manner he could, he endeavoured to retrace every former movement of Morland's modes of painting, and lamented he had not taken more notice of the

the particular modes of this great painter, when it was in his power; for every observation and every circumstance led him to view the works of that excellent, though eccentric master as the criterion of perfection with the *ancient* masters, with whom Mr. Ward was wholly unacquainted at this epoch of his study; not even recollecting ever to have seen, any of their works; and, indeed, if he had, (as was the case for years after) such was his enthusiasm and high sense of Morland's merit, he would have turned from them with disgust; in proportion as they differed from the stile of this his favourite model; who, he then believed, had left every master that ever existed far behind. Under this impression, with the very extraordinary demand for the works of his idol, and the impressive circumstance of his never having seen any other person paint, he was naturally led into the same track, and indeed it would have been difficult to have selected a better. Accordingly, the height of his ambition was to see nature with the eyes of Morland, and to pay her court and reverence, as he conceived, Morland would have done. In fine he looked upon the study of nature and Morland as the same thing: and what may be called vulgar nature, found most favour because most picturesque. Having thus pre-determined, he commenced his career; and might truly be said

"To catch the objects living as they rose."

He humourously began by sketching the man who removed his goods to Hendon, on the very night he left his brother; although the whole party, who accompanied him, were excessively weary and himself much out of health, he continued his plan, till after

finishing the driver, he had sketched every picturesque person that passed along the road, with all the impetuosity and fire of determined genius. His excursions from his new dwelling, and at home, were distinguished by this impromptu mode of drawing. But at length it became troublesome, as it was no uncommon thing for gypsies and grotesque beggars to throw themselves in his way, or come to the house (lured by the reward, as each expected and received something) to be drawn, and were often employed to send still more. In this agreeable abode his pregnant ideas were variously called forth; he painted a pair of pictures, for prints, of Children amusing themselves with a Rocking-horse, and a companion to his picture of Rustic Felicity. These were also sold immediately, and he was also engaged to engrave them,

"Equal to both and arm'd for either field."

This induced him to paint another pair; viz. Compassionate Children, and Hay-makers at rest; these latter were engraved by his brother William. A number of smaller pictures were produced in rapid succession by the prolific pencil of our artist, who sold them with a readiness proportioned to their being conceived and executed in the spirit of Morland.

Mr. Ward now removed to Winchester-Row, Paddington, where he furnished a house and invited a sister to live with him. Thus, having established a fixed abode, he had acquired a fair reputation as an engraver, and surprizing even himself by his progress in an art, wherein neither he, nor his most enthusiastic friends and admirers could have expected him to excel. He was much followed with a sort of emulative rivalry by publishers,

lishers for both pictures and engravings; and their being a very great demand for prints upon the continent at this time, he devoted much attention to the study of *animals;* always among the favourites of his pencil. Among various others, he painted and engraved a cow-house, and a dairy farm; a tiger devouring his prey, and his view in Leicestershire, after Morland, and in a style of excellence of which that popular artist need not have been ashamed. These were followed by a number of smaller pictures which were disposed of to dealers. His profits and his fame were proceeding to his wish, yet he felt that every thing he had done in this imitative way, tended to convince him that he was swimming in a stream which would at length overwhelm him—Morland would only paint for dealers—dealers purchased of Mr. Ward, but knowing the value of Morland's style and name, wished every thing as much to resemble that artist as possible: indeed he found it invariably the case, that, while the works of Morland were valuable in the degree that they resembled NATURE—those of Ward's, considered of value only, as they resembled Morland's: and he had the mortification to hear on all sides, even when the observers highly praised the execution, that the ideas were all stolen from such a print or picture of Morland; so that in every subject, he had at length more difficulty in avoiding what Morland had done than in making up a composition of his own; a difficulty which may be easily conceived when it is considered that the style was the same, the subjects the same, and the source the same. Hence our artist perceived that if he was more than usually successful, his picture was sold for

 a Morland

a Morland (many glaring instances of which, have been discovered at public auctions) while, on the contrary, when Morland did any-thing unequal to himself, which happens to every man of genius, in every art, it was attributed to Ward, or Hand, or Brown, who were two miserable pupils of Morland's, whom Morland himself said, truly perhaps, but vauntingly, "that he would put his pencil in his button-hole and paint better than either of those daubers." Another dilemma which Mr. Ward had to encounter, arose from finding that many persons were busied in collecting Morland's works upon speculation. These picture merchants, found it for their interest to prevent another in the same walk interfering; yet our artist continued to gain ground, and bore down every opposition.—But a more serious subject now demanded his attention: it is not easy to conceive the state of his mind when the war broke out upon the continent, which put a total stop to all the ornamental studies of peace. Such was the almost instantaneous effect of this calamity, that the arts seemed suddenly to expire. Every thing which Mr. Ward had in hand was suspended; and neither he nor the pupils who filled his house, from the quantity of work bespoke, had any thing to do: and it was the case with many other persons of genius, industry, and virtue.

Idleness, however, and our artist could never assimilate. Resisting the public storm, he persevered in his studies with the same energy and on the same establishment; hoping that the war would soon cease. Alas! year rolled after year, and has still continued, and the dove of peace cannot even yet find a resting place for the sole of her foot. But what cannot the union of ta-

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lents, integrity, perseverance, patience, and piety achieve? An illustrious instance may be produced of their combined effect, in the conduct of James Ward at the difficult point to which we have now brought his history.

Finding his purse-strings pulled too rudely by the hard hand of necessity, Mr. Ward relinquished his favourite house at Paddington, and removed to lodgings in Bow Street. Morland himself, about this time, resided at Paddington; that irregular yet ingenious man had never any fixed abode. It was most frequently a "local habitation;" and not less seldom *without* "a name," on account of his incessant embarrassments. This period of Morland's story may be considered as the climax of his natural powers, the encouragement he received from the public, and of his private dissipation.

Yet when we consider Mr. Ward's enthusiastic admiration of the admirable talents, no wonder that he contrived to adore his genius, while he detested his vices; which were but too manifold. Yet the sincere and tender affection which Mr. Ward entertained for his sister, Morland's wife, and the path which he had chosen for himself, required a fortitude more than human to separate suddenly and entirely. The virtuous determination, however so to do, was not the less firm on this account; and by degrees he put it into execution, forbearing to see him except upon particular occasions, when his feelings were irresistibly called into action; such as was produced by sudden calamity; such, for instance, as a case which happened about this period, when Morland, pursued by bailiffs, implored permission to make the house of his brother

as the most unlikely place to hunt for him—an assylum. Here hospitality, family connection, and the commiseration which is due even to the unworthy in distress, pleaded his excuse; and Morland remained sometime secure in this unsuspected sanctuary. It is but justice to observe, that Morland, in his cooler moments, mentioned this circumstance to his wife with every feeling of grateful acknowledgment.

We have here to mention another hydra-head which our heroic youth—heroic in moral action; the noblest heroism—had to support. His brother, Mr. W. Ward, being still in habits of professional intercourse with Morland, with whose company he was unfortunately fascinated, and also the personal similitude between James and William being so striking as frequently to be taken for each other, the former was universally considered the intimate associate of Morland; and, for many years, persons of respectability avoided our poor James, as an object to be shunned, on the generally well founded principle, of judging a man by the company he keeps. While, on the other hand, the admirers of Morland would have some eccentric anecdote tacked to every picture, as the strongest and almost the only true sign of genius; some strange enterprize or adventure, always idle and more frequently wicked, in which our artist was presumed to take no inactive part.

But we will now take a view of the truly interesting subject of this memoir, under this complication of feelings, and with a weight of melancholy prospects; deprived of the house where his genius seemed to expand, and his heart to repose; obliged to relinquish that promoter of health, his horse; to forego his domestic

mestic animals, his garden and his sister; to become a ledger in one of the most gloomy houses of Bow Street, under the portico leading to the theatre. Here, without a single object of amusement, or any prospect of being able to keep even this situation, with two apprentices and a servant: and what was still more forlorn, without disposing of any thing that brought him ten pounds, lived in patient virtue, and persevering industry, our worthy artist. Still active, however, still indefatigable, if one object failed he tried another, and as a farther proof of unsubdued energy, he resolutely, at this period, set about improving the usual method of *soft ground etchings*, an object of great difficulty; but difficulty stimulates genius, and therefore Mr. Ward thought it worth attention. This labour occupied him for several months, from early day, to a late hour in the evening; not seldom indeed for whole nights together. At length he brought it to the point desired; and in the last plate of a *Book of Etchings* which he published, it is universally allowed that there is a something which had never been seen in that stile of art. Yet their sale was no way proportioned to their merit: for which the same motive is to be assigned as on a former occasion. A similar work after Morland had just come out, and had sold well. This removed the novelty of such subjects, and therefore the only advantage which accrued from these kind of works was lost; besides incurring the heavy expences and chicanery of dealers and other persons whom Mr. Ward entrusted. These accumulated discouragements, may, for a time, be considered as the last efforts of expiring energy. Mr. Ward now sunk under the complicated load of distressing feelings, and thronging disappointments.

appointments. But as if these were not sufficient, they were rendered yet more poignant by insinuations, and those poisoned arrows, which the unfeeling take so much pleasure to throw out against the unfortunate. Lacerating as these sometimes were, the high sense of honor, and the justly proud confidence in his own integrity sustained Mr. Ward's dignified mind on its poise, and would not suffer him to indulge the envious or malignant by explaining any circumstance that appeared to militate against him: buoyed up by his own strength, and supported by his good intentions, he pursued one undeviating track of rectitude, and

"Fainted not by the way."

The recompense of virtue is often great, even in this life. With what pleasure of recollection, with what generous glow of heart must our artist *now* look back on the trials of his faith, his genius, and his duty. What a balm must memory present as he recurs to the time, when, in the hour of his extremity, he took pictures to persons of his acquaintance, even imploring to give the miserable sum of *two or three pounds* for them, to convey to the authors of his being, who, but for him, must have died of absolute want. What holy rapture to supply that want by filial piety, while pennyless himself, as was often the case, and involved on every side, his very industry increased his debts. He could not ENGRAVE without purchase and prompt payment for copper and grounds; nor without printing and paper; nor could he PAINT without buying canvass, colours, and fils, and to carry the embarrassments of the present disastrous period to its melancholy

lancholy climax, he found himself in the house of a man and his wife of most despicable character.

It was, however, soon after this, he accidentally met at the house of a friend, the lady whom he afterwards married; a circumstance which perhaps at this forlorn moment tended as much to encrease his despondency as to console him.

In this state of dilemma the firm mind of our artist became confused, irritable, and little short of insanity.

In this afflictive situation of mind and body, both requiring tranquillity, he hired a cottage he had once seen, with an eye of favour, situated on a common, about seven miles from town, at the back of the romantic village of Hornsey. Near as it was to the grand metropolis of the empire, it looked, in a manner, as if the abode of a hermit, and was certainly very far from "the busy hum of men." To this, our pensive and sorrowing artist with eagerness retired as to a land of peace. The fruit of unwearied toil gave him the power of moving to this sequestered spot. He continued some time in this recess not without quietude, as to rest from hurry of spirits, but without professional improvement. As might naturally be expected, such of his works, as were either begun or ended in this seclusion, were unequal and proportioned to the state of his nerves, which were sometimes so deranged as to leave very few intervals for labour, and indeed still less hopes of recovery.

After some months he began to feel himself like a cork in the water, which, when whirled about in different directions, still keeps its position on the surface, and rises above the dash of the winds and waves. He resumed

resumed the instruments of his double art. He painted some pictures, interesting subjects for prints, for his brother, and likewise some portraits, and two or three fancy pictures for a gentleman at Bethnal Green. He likewise finished a plate of *The Tiger Disturbed*, with several others, which although from the state of the times, could not be published, yet, now that his health returned, every object assumed a different aspect; hope not less sweet nature's soft "restorer" than sleep, revived; and future happy prospects opened themselves to his view. Meantime he lived at little expence, and the pictures he disposed of, although for very small sums, prevented immediate distress.

Having remained at this place a twelvemonth, his friends advised his removal again to town, truly considering his talents buried from the world. Although he had hitherto seen little but confusion and discouragement, he followed their advice and removed once more to Paddington, to the house of his friend who spared him a part of it. Here again his evil genius haunted him in the person of G. MORLAND, and changed the day of his return with an amiable wife, even the day of marriage, with most people the happiest of their lives, into a day of storm and trouble. The wedding was kept at his father's house at Kentish Town, where a large party of friends were assembled. Towards the conclusion of the evening, a still larger party of butchers, &c. serenaded the house with a dreadful din, and, contrary to what is the usual custom with such fellows, of retiring with a fee without any further uproar, no sooner was the door open, but they rushed in with the most terrific clamour, using a language that shocks reflection and would pollute our paper. The

ruffians

ruffians struck those who endeavoured to get rid of them, with their cleavers. Fortunately, no fatal accident ensued, but as they had been *paid* not to depart in *peace*, their conduct in the street was what might be expected from such wretches. The astonishment at such outrage was general, till MORLAND was discovered at a little distance in a state past description; vomiting out the effects of his assistance, in what he termed *priming* his mirmidons for the work in which he had engaged them, and which that hapless man considered as a frolic.*

But, turning from these dreadful scenes, we will now survey our artist renewing his exertions, labouring at improvement, and straining every nerve, honestly as ingeniously, to remove the incumbrances by which

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* For some years previous and subsequent to this, and until the death of our artist's father, Morland used constantly to remove himself to the abode of those old people, whose latter days demanded quietness and peace; it is needless to observe on the effect. He and his horde of followers kept the poor old man in a state of almost constant inebriety, while his wife was made their household drudge. At this place it was that Mrs. G. Morland suffered her second severe illness. Vainly did the worthy James Ward endeavour to put a stop to these outrages. He saw a lovely and beloved sister, (such was Mrs. Morland) dying in torments; her mother's attendance was an alleviation—but that mother was also languishing under the weight of excessive fatigue, and his father's overwhelming vice of drinking was encouraged and fed to his destruction; what was to be done at this time?—nothing—he waited, he lamented, and still it was the same; his sister recovered, and then he urged the necessity of his mother's peace by their removal; it answered nothing, but calling down upon himself a weight of enmity and passion. At length a way was appointed by Providence—his father died.

he was still oppressed, but which, he found almost impossible to surmount from the extreme low prices given for his pictures, the pressing manner in which he was assailed by persons to whom he was indebted, and the great imposition to which he was subject for want of receipts for money paid, by which, in many instances, he paid double. These considerations, at the same time that it increased his industry, operated very much against his improvement, compelling him to undertake—how often is the fate of genius to be mourned!—any thing that would bring money. Engraving was, at this point of time, the chief source from which profit was to be expected; although it prevented his cultivating his more darling art. Our readers will judge of the energy of this man's mind when he is told, that this *uncongenial* toil continued for seven years. If he deviated to his favourite art, the argument of the *trade* was, "Why do you leave the *copper*? In that you are the first: but in painting there are so many before you that you stand no chance of distinction;" he answered nothing; he knew their powers, and was conscious of his own. They flourished as a full blown sunflower in the shine of encouragement, he hung his dejected head like the humble snow-drop repining under all the chilly blasts of opposition and of neglect. But the hour of victory was advancing, and glory began to hail him though from afar. The laurel was waving in the air, and though as yet beyond his reach, was destined to crown him. Our emulative artist beheld it; panting with generous ambition, he pursued; at length it met his eager grasp, and it is now a wreath of honour, fame, and fortune, encircling his head.

The

The pictures most worthy observation, at this time, were, The Condemned Calf, The Farrier's Shop, Butcher's Shop, a small one of a Dog stealing at a Butcher's Shop, four pictures of The Progress of a Leg of Mutton, with a number of smaller pieces all in the style of Morland. Nevertheless, being still annoyed with the ill-natured observation upon that subject, as to his want of original powers, or any powers of composition without the works of that artist as prompter and guide, he engaged to bring forth the picture of a Bull-baiting, that he might have the opportunity of doing away the disadvantage of such an observation, by composing a subject containing a greater number of figures than Morland had ever attempted to put into a picture. This was exhibited in the Royal Academy; and it was in that place, the compiler of this memoir assures us Mr. Ward heard a group of persons descanting upon both the piece and the painter; asserting that he was a pupil of G. Morland. From that moment, he determined to relinquish the style even as he had done the society of Morland altogether, though for very different reasons; and for that purpose he began to look out for excellence in the works of other men. The first which arrested his attention was the admirable Loutherbourg, in whose powers and productions, he was led perhaps to find superior excellence. Indeed, Morland himself used to assert, that he would not give up the palm to any one but Loutherbourg; Mr. Ward now painted a few pictures in the style of that great master so successfully, that they have been taken for his works; these, and a few plates, engaged him until he was at length introduced to Mr. Brian's gallery of the works of old masters of the divine art he

 professed.

professed. And now his eyes were, about the year 1798-9, opened to a style of art altogether new and extraordinary, and of which he had no conception. Here Mr. Brian, with his usual liberality, suffered him to come in at all times, and here the finest works of the old masters presented themselves in succession. He was fascinated with each of them in turn; but those which particularly impressed themselves were POTTER and TENNIERS. But to attempt any thing like those great men, was to resign all that he had before acquired: he saw at once that the whole system was different, he was in every particular at fault, and had no one to assist but the imitative and prolific power of undaunted genius: but what is there which this cannot effect? He went resolutely into experiments, and infinitely various were those he immediately made; rejecting, approving, and rejecting again. He watched for any accidental expression from those that most successfully practised the art. Every hint became the groundwork of a new experiment. An almost endless succession of trials and chemical combinations with all the homogenious and heterogenious mixtures that a wild, enthusiastic, and abundant imagination could devise; wrapt, inspired, inflamed by a sight of the many beauties around, and by a due consideration of the many valuable years which he had sacrificed to false principles and ideas, which rendered him a mass of restless impatience, pursuing only to pursue, with new beauties every moment rushing to his eye, with every kind of impediment lying in his way, the view of which, sometimes made him tremble. Strong barriers of prejudice, at the same time, to pull down; mountains, as it were, to clear away; a taste directed rather to the

deformities

deformities than the *beauties* of nature: and the materials with which this strong fabric was to be built, all to be drawn together by himself alone, and under every possible disadvantage. Yet even these things did not dishearten him; *go forward*, was his motto; and upon that principle, he has invariably acted while health would permit him to hold up his head or move his hand. But the greatest drawback he had to lament was the very little time he could still give to the *pallet*, from the rapid increase, and consequently the demands, of his family, which still condemned him to the *copper*, as the most productive, though not the most attracting. Nevertheless, his success now gained on the public from every effort. The number and size of his plates, as well as the execution, will best declare the time and pains which this extraordinary man devoted to his employments. He was engaged by Mr. Bryan to engrave a plate after Rubens, another after Rembrandt, a third after Deitriey, and a fourth after Sir J. Reynolds; each of a large size, which led him to the Review after Beechey; and the rapid sale of that piece, led to the large plate of Duncan receiving the Sword from De Winter, after Copley; a whole length of Lord Duncan, Mrs. Taylor, and Juvenile Retirement—after Hopner, &c. with several others of less note, and which are too numerous to particularize. These raised his reputation to the first rank. They also procured for Mr. Ward a demand for his general works as an engraver, that perhaps have never been surpassed in this country; and, had money now been his only object in the arts, he was in a a fair way of acquiring independence without any farther exertion at higher

objects: but his ambition was scarcely as yet half gratified.

Mr. Ward never considered engraving a study, and could, on that account, work with astonishing rapidity; his emoluments were in proportion. And now duty, affection, interest, advice, ease, and affluence all conspired to induce him to say, now I may repose—now I may stand still, for my work is done. But who is able to resist the powerful impulse of the human mind, in the exercise and incitement of a *favourite* science? That favourite science he was now at liberty to pursue. Previously to a more steady resumption of his best, loved art, he prepared his mind by a refusal of all works in the line of engraving; although in one year that refusal went tothe sacrifice of near two thousand pounds. But intent on higher plans; he entered himself a student of the Royal Academy, for the study of the human figure, and, in 1801, he became a pupil of Mr. Brooks, in Blenheim Street, for the purpose of obtaining a more accurate anatomical knowledge. In the summer he indulged himself by excursing into the country to study landscape. He resorted likewise to the sea-side for marine objects, as well as for replenishing that health which intensity of labour had so much impaired. In one of these tours, to the Isle of Thanet, he received a letter from Sir John Sinclair, to give the portrait of an animal (a young cow) for the Board of Agriculture. This gave so much satisfaction that he was afterwards solicited to paint other animals, particularly those of the Staffordshire breed. The uncommon excellence which our artist discovered in this style of drawing, first led him to characterize the different breeds of cattle, and was the first step to his be-

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ing made known to one of the most amiable and public spirited of our noblemen, a lineal descendant of the poet of that name, Lord Somerville.

Mr. Ward's fame now expanded as a painter: invitations, honours, and employments followed wherever he went. Gentlemen were rivalling each other in different parts of the country to engage him to paint portraits of their cattle as well as themselves and families. And he soon discovered the singular talent of preserving the very *character* as well as figure of the object under his inspection. It was now thought adviseable to remove to town, where he took a house in Newman Street, in which he now resides. But, as if fortune had again resolved to harass him, even his life was made almost insupportable by the return of a disease, which approached its climax; namely a relaxation of the whole internal machine, with the most threatening symptoms of an agonizing death. Submitting, however, with his usual fortitude to a surgical operation of a very painful nature: he seemed to have gained a new constitution, and all, once more, lay fair before him. Hope, spirits, expectations, and energies again returned, and in a degree he had never before witnessed. But alas! his cup was too full of pleasure to last long! A portion of bitter was once more thrown into it. Before he was thoroughly established, a family affliction of a nature peculiarly poignant fell like a thunderclap, took from him every power, every nerve, and once more threw him into the darkest gloom of despair.

This deep trouble rested upon him long in its force; but James Ward had also long known the consolations of religion. These subjects had always made up the

 practice

practice of his life, and formed a part of his studies. He rose again as from the dead, renovated by piety, and refreshed by prayer.* He accepted an engagement by Alderman Boydel to collect portraits of different breeds of cattle for an extensive work of that sort. This occasioned a journey into the west of England, and through the whole of the lovely principality of Wales. It would extend beyond our limits to relate the variety of strange, perplexing, and yet interesting circumstances that occurred in the course of these wanderings, as they have been represented to us; suffice it therefore to say, that in the last tour through Wales, during three months, he brought home *five hundred and eighty-one* sketches from nature. The work has not yet been published, but the writer of this article cannot but hope it will make its appearance, as the whole displays the richest genius, accompanying the most unwearied industry. Lord Somerville next engaged Mr. Ward's pencil, in a picture as large as life, of the King on horseback, which, with the smaller one, as a study for the same, is considered *unique* in that stile of art; the person of his Majesty is extremely fine and the horse admirable, which added another wreathe to his brow as an animal painter, which indeed his cotemporaries seem disposed to allow. The time now arrived when those very persons, who formerly had advised his devoting himself wholly to the copper, readily acknowledged his powers as a painter, and thought he should turn to the study of *horse-painting*; while some of his friends who have likenesses of themselves, their children, and their friends, thought he should keep to *portrait-painting*. This was indeed a victory!—But now arrived the period

riod when the world was to behold in a yet bolder and nobler display, the variety and the extent of his powers. Two large landscapes of Rubens' came to this country in the year 1803; one of them was purchased by Sir George Beaumont for fifteen hundred guineas, and was placed in the hand of the President of the Royal Academy, for some time, and the picture was shewn our artist, by Mr. West. He was for a time confounded, and found it impossible to lose sight of it the whole of the morning in which he first beheld it. He witnessed the opinions of the various artists and connoisseurs who came in: he heard *them* express the astonishment which *he* felt inexpressible. He heard them declare, that unless we could get the colours, &c. of Rubens, it was impossible to do likewise. Mr. Ward made no observation whatever, at least he gave his feelings no tongue, but silently ordered a pannel of the same size, and applying a sketch of his own to the principles then developed, produced the exquisite picture of St. Dorat's Castle. It is sufficient to say, that for a considerable time little else was talked of in the world of art but this picture, and the crowds of persons of the highest judgment and respectability that thronged to the house of the artist to see it, best speak its praise. Mr. Ward now finished the large *plate* of the King on Horseback, from the picture he painted for Lord Somerville: and then hurrying from that part of the labour, (for confinement to the copper now became intolerable) and wishing to present to the public something yet new, and that should mark the diversity of his talents, a circumstance upon which he justly prides himself, he painted the large picture of A Serpent seizing its Prey, which was considered as

 original

original in its conception, as happy in its execution, and distinguished from every thing which has been yet seen in this country. This admirable piece placed Mr Ward in the first rank of *historic painting*; and the picture classes with those of the terrific character of the sublime. The artist has endeavoured to unite by boldness and variety of outline and anatomical knowledge of parts, the majestic feeling of Michael Angelo, with the elegance of Vandyke: while, in colour, to give the purity and brilliancy of Rubens, with the sombre dignity and depth of Titian; and, indeed, it is the union of those excellencies he wishes to pervade all his works, and which perhaps the irregular method of his studies have tended to lead him to the possession of in a much more eminent degree than if he had been brought up under any one painter. It is scarcely possible to convey any idea of the attention which, from all sorts of persons, were now paid to Mr. Ward, upon the production of these performances. Persons of the highest station, character, and judgment, vied with each other in giving him the most flattering proof of their high opinion by unlimited invitations to their houses, and every other mark of distinction, with the warmest expressions of surprise and admiration, accompanied with extraordinary inquisitiveness as to his birth-place, &c. Another person of very high degree of talent, taste, and knowledge of the art, speaking of the style of greatness in the forms, character, and conception in the *Serpent-Picture*, observed, that he could not divest himself of the idea of its being painted by a giant; we give this as a specimen of the language in which he was addressed by all persons; but what is far more triumphant, many of those by whom he had

been

been ill-treated, now sought means of recovering his good opinion, and many of our greatest painters took great pains to gain from him a knowledge of the *principles* of his art.

The interview of our artist with his Majesty, the Queen, and family, should not be omitted. He had the honor of being introduced to these royal visitants, in order to show them the four pictures he had painted for his noble patron, Lord Somerville. The King was on that day in high health and good spirits. "He demanded of our artist, how he contrived to succeed so well in painting and engraving, and especially how he could go so quick from landscapes to portraits, thinking it might be best he should stick to one or the other: but indeed, observed his Majesty, I remember Gainsborough once told me that he must have starved upon landscapes, and could live only on portraits, and he supposed that might be the case with Mr. Ward; but still engraving and painting he thought must be very difficult." Ward answered, that he engraved to live, as by a kind of trade, but that he painted as from his *love* of the art. "Aye, aye, just so, just so," replied his Majesty; repeating what our artist had said to him to Lord Somerville, who was present, and then turning to Ward said, "Somerville is the very man to employ you to paint landscapes; aye, and to pay you well for them too, for he has lately sold a ram for two hundred and fifty pounds."

We will now view our artist as it respects himself and the Royal Academy: he always considered that institution as a body which was intitled to, and should support a lofty character. But men of real genius are usually modest in proportion to their merit; we know

James

James Ward to be humble, and that he never looked seriously to become a member of the above mentioned body, until he felt his powers were fully ripe, as considering, that such a society should, and ought to feel a disposition to admit such members, and *such alone*, as, while *giving*, they might *receive* honour by the election.

Some illiberal conduct induced Mr. Ward, however to draw this very natural conclusion, respecting certain members of that institution: " we will receive you, (for we cannot keep you out any longer Mr. Ward,) but you must suffer us to clip your wings: you must not fly in among us, that has not been customary." "On the other hand," says Ward, " I feel my strength, and consider, if I derive honor from the Institution, if I am worthy to be chosen, that derives honor from me, and I must defend the reputation of my picture." This he felt, and this he said to some of the members themselves, in the hearing of the collector of these memoirs, but he spake without any acrimony. He wrote to the Body in terms of politeness, and manly dignity, that, " he had reason for wishing all his works to be seen *together* ,and if that was impossible, begged to have them all returned. This was complied with, and he made an exhibition in his own house, which had every good effect, as it was the means of introducing him to a variety of persons of the first distinction, by many of whom he became employed; and who before had no idea of his powers, and many of them not even knowing him as a *painter*. Among the number of visitors to his exhibition, and at this point of his reputation came MORLAND himself, whom (for years he had lost sight of) lured by the brilliant

liant eclat made upon these works, and perhaps looking back to the very short period when he made the observation, that, "with his pencil in his button-hole, he would beat all his imitators." He was in an emaciated and feeble state of body and mind, and his observations marked with a lamentable deficiency in the latter. What were Mr. Ward's sensations when, unexpectedly looking once more upon that man, who, at various times was the object of his affection, respect, admiration, and envy, now only the awful subject of his regret and pity, tottering slowly round the room without a single idea, (supported by a creature of the very lowest class,) squallid, bloated, cadiverous, and trembling under the weight of his own frame!—alas, how changed!—The arranger of these materials can scarcely do justice to the generous feelings which, he understood, took place on this occasion; Mr. Ward was melted even to tears, and exclaimed, "Behold at once the Syren, the Rock, the Beacon and the Whirlpool!" This was the last time hesaw this unhappy man.

But before we take leave of Morland for ever, let us survey his *final* departure. It may be as a light upon an eminence to warn others from the vortex into which he plunged! His death happened in the following manner. Being arrested and taken to a place of confinement, he called for a large quantity of spirits, which he hastily swallowed and soon became delirious, in which state he lay some days, raving violently, and the subject of his exclamation was his deep regret for his domestic misconduct. In this dreadful state indeed few knew of his situation: he lay for some days when he

expired

expired in agony; his corse was immediately removed to the house of Mr. W. Ward, who, with the subject of this paper, at the particular request of his relations accompanied it to the grave, all of whom have often witnessed his declaring for "a short life and a merry one." A short life he had, but we well know merryment was by far its smallest portion: his death was such as such a life commonly insures.

The death of his amiable and unfortunate lady, was not less afflictive. She had been used to say, "I know my friends wish George dead, and think that I shall be happy, but they don't know what they wish for: whenever that happens I *shall not live three days after*. A prediction which was but too completely realized.

The agony which this blow in the loss of such a sister produced on our artist, no words can paint. When he could return to the duties of his pencil, he was commissioned by Sir Watkin W. Wynne, to paint three pictures of Horses and Dogs for him, and went to Wynstay for that purpose: but, however well such subjects might be painted, or however such kind of employment might tend to the comfort and support of his family, or however he might feel himself obliged by that patronage, yet it has never accorded with the towering hopes and views of our painter, who has to lament (in common with all other artists,) that works of imagination are not sufficiently understood or encouraged in this country. It must be a *portrait*, and without a likeness it has no interest, and that holds good in every department of art, from a portrait of a man or his horse, down to a cabbage. Ward next painted a pair of Landscapes for Lord Somerville, views in Somersetshire; after which he took

up

up a large picture of sheep washing, (now in the possession of a gentleman of Lincoln's Inn,) which for daring character of composition, as to its grandeur, no less than colour, and execution, is equal to any of his works. The same gentleman also possesses a picture of Pigs, in which the artist has endeavored to shew that the most contemptible subject may be elevated by the style in which it is executed; we see in that picture the true character of Titian; also an infant Christ embracing the cross, in which sweetness of force and expression, with purity, depth, and richness of color are united; and a picture of two Tigers, the landscape of which has been generally considered by the first judges, to be equal to any thing, of any country, with several smaller ones. Mr. W. has also a picture now in his possession the property of the above-mentioned gentleman, of Bacchus and a young Satyr, the character, color, and execution of which, can be only known by examination.

We now approach the moment when we are to look at our artist in his present situation. The summer before last, he accompanied Lord Somerville into Scotland, and has recently finished a pair of pictures for him, which were the offspring of that tour. These are, we believe, in the present exhibition. Much praise is due to that truly estimable nobleman, who notwithstanding the great degree of reputation attached to his landscape, is the only patron that came forward to give him any commission for similar works, but whose liberality will receive its own reward.

These, with some smaller pictures, strongly mark a genius, that, notwithstanding what it has gained, is still progressive and advancing on the canvas; at the

same time that a plate he has just finished of Studies from Nature, proves that he has not lost an atom of his powers as an engraver.

As a MAN, James Ward's character has been so interwoven with our remarks on his professional progress, that little remains to be said. He is yet of an age to hold out to his country the hope that he will produce many additional works that shall add to his own and the national honour. This is the more reasonably to be hoped, as his hours of business we know still continue from that of early rising, to that of frequently late repose; and, as he has often assured his friends, he feels little or no amusement in any thing unconnected with his art.

The dire domestic calamities which befel him, especially in the death of his sister, being now softened by time and piety, his mind is again calm and peaceful; and steadily returns to the pursuits of his one grand object; or rather *his two* great objects: for if we find him one day engaged on the *canvass*, the next, perhaps, discovers him no less assiduously, or successfully, though less congenially, working on the *copper*. Now on a picture as large as life, and then upon a miniature. To day we behold his sublimest powers employed upon a fall of Phaeton, and then upon a group of cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, or upon a grand landscape. Then again shifting, with incredible versatility to the portrait of a dog or a horse, and then rising to portraits of their masters.

One thing deserves to be mentioned, as it not only describes a peculiarity in the habits of our artist, but may be of assistance to others: as he cannot afford to purchase all the finest works of ancient masters, (as

 was,

was, indeed, in the early period of his practice, the case with Sir Joshua Reynolds and others,) whenever a picture of that attractive kind comes forward to the world, with an extraordinary degree of eclat, coupled with the common observations, *that it cannot be copied*, or even *imitated*, Ward makes a sketch of his own, and attempts an imitation, which he keeps as much for his own improvement as to endeavour to break down that barrier of prejudice against the *modern school of artists*. In many such instances he has wonderfully succeeded; this has frequently been attended with a doubt in the mind of the beholders to which they should give the preference. Hence it is, that we see, in the same exhibition, one picture that reminds us of Rubens, another of Rembrandt, another of Teniers, and another of Paul Potter, or Snyder, or Fytt, or Cuyp, just as he has felt the different subjects required adaptation of colour, manner, figure, &c. &c.

We have just been favoured with the following copy of original verses, with permission to use them on the present occasion; as a tribute of justice to the subject of the foregoing memoir.

WRITTEN IN THE

PICTURE GALLERY OF MR. JAMES WARD,

WHILE WAITING A SITTING.

A GENTLEMAN in waiting, here,
Might find a banquet *for a year;*
Could but the *body* be content
With only *mental* nourishment!
That *groupe of Greyhounds*, is a feast
For the "Mind's eye," *three months* at least;

 A father's

A father's love, a mother's care,
As nature paints, are painted there.
Those *warring Bulls*, those *oxen* sleek,
Tinted like Nature, streak by streak;
Proud and majestic in his frame,
That *Lion* too, puts in his claim,
With yonder finely varied band,
Another quarter well demand.
And, surely, yon terrific *Snake*,
Whose very image makes one quake;
That madd'ning *Horse*'s anguish'd air,
That *Rider*'s look, of dread despair,
The horror o'er each feature thrown,
A horror, Nature, like thy own;
As the huge Serpent fell and bold
Wreathes in many a gorgon fold
Sublimely terrible, might fix
Our vision, for the *other six*.
Not to enumerate the flocks,
In painted valleys, or on rocks,
Nor that *old man*, who seems to say,
" Stranger, although my locks be grey,
" Yet do not pity, for you see,
" I take my jug of ale with glee;
" Nor the diversities of *Cattle*,
" Whether in frolic, or in battle—
" All these, attentive to survey,
" Would fill up many an *extra* day,
" Till, ere we've analiz'd the whole,
" A twelvemonth *more* its course might roll!"

GRANVILLE SHARP, ESQ.

Few men have united in themselves, so many sterling accomplishments, and eminent virtues; and fewer still have rendered their talents subservient to so much general good through the course of a life protracted beyond the ordinary limits of human nature, as the subject of this rapid and imperfect sketch.

John Sharp, Esq. the father of Mr. Granville Sharp was the son of the celebrated archbishop of York, who distinguished himself so much in the reign of James the second, by his firmness against the popish measures of that monarch, and for which he was silenced, and suspended by the ecclesiastical commission in 1686. He was then dean of Norwich, and rector of St. Giles in the fields; but in 1688, king James thought proper to take off his suspension, and at the same time, made him one of his chaplains. In 1689, he was preferred to the deanry of Canterbury; and on the deprivation of the bishops for refusing the oaths to William and Mary, he had his choice of either of the vacancies, but he could not by any persuasion be induced to accept the offer: for though he cordially approved of the revolution, it seems he scrupled the act of entering into the place of a living bishop, who was removed for nothing but a religious regard to his obligations, and former oaths of allegiance.

On the death of Dr. Lamplugh, archbishop of York in 1691, he was deservedly elevated to that high dignity which he filled with great reputation above twenty-two years. He died at Bath, in 1713, and was interred in York Cathedral, where an handsome marble monument was erected to his memory, having a long and well written Latin inscription, the composition of his Grace's learned friend, Bishop Smalridge. The archbishop's sermons in seven volumes octavo, are a still more durable monument of his w[illegible]. They are vigorous, original, and elegant.

The subject of the present memoir, was born in Queen Square, Westminster, about the year 1727, and received his education in the college school there, from whence he removed to the Inner Temple, and in due course was called to the bar, but having a handsome fortune of his own, he never practised the law.

At the beginning of the present reign, he obtained a considerable place in the ordnance office, but on the breaking out of the disturbance with America, he gave up that situation, and took chambers in the Temple, where he resided many years, but now lives mostly at Fulham.

A prominent feature of this excellent man is benevolence; not that soft, tender sentimentality, which too often imposes upon the credulous world, and obtains for the person who possesses it, or pretends to the disposition, a higher character than he is in reality entitled to; but that, noble, active temper which is eager to alleviate the distresses of others, to the disregard of all obstacles, and of personal convenience. Mr. Sharp it is well known is the person to whom of all

all men in the present day, we are most indebted for the abolition of the slave trade. * He it was who first directed the attention of a free nation to that abominable species of robbery and usurpation; and he it was who determined the important question that every human being, of whatever color or station he may be, is immediately free, when he sets his foot on English ground. The case was this;—A poor negro, of the name of Somerset being afflicted with a disorder which had deprived him of his sight, and otherwise rendered him useless to his master, was abandoned by him and obliged to beg his bread. In this miserable condition he was on the pavement in one of the public streets, nearly expiring. In this wretched and deplorable situation, a prey to disease, and nearly expiring, was this poor object found in a public street, by Mr. Sharp. His humanity was greatly affected by the sight, and he caused the lad to be removed to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where by an assiduous attention, he was restored to health and to his sight. His benefactor then clothed him, and procured him a comfortable situation in the service of one of his friends. Two years afterwards, he received a letter from a person in the Poultry Compter, imploring his immediate assistance. Though the letter was subscribed *Somerset*, the person of the poor negro, did not occur to Mr. Sharp's memory. His beneficence, however, was still

* It is not intended by the above remark, to lessen the glory of Mr. Wilberforce, or to undervalue the services of many other excellent laborers in the cause of suffering humanity: but it was thought right to give Mr. Sharp that priority to which upon all accounts he has an undoubted claim.

alive; and therefore he instantly set out to the prison, where to his no great surprise, he found that the person who had applied to him, was no other than the object of his former kindness. The inhuman master having observed the lad behind his lady's carriage, seized him in the public street, and had him hurried to prison as his runaway slave. On hearing this narrative, Mr. Sharp instantly waited on the Lord Mayor, who caused both the master and the negro to be brought before him; and no sooner was the whole case stated, than that upright magistrate pronounced the servant free, and at liberty to go where he pleased. But the West Indian tyrant, with as little regard to decency of manners, as he had shewn of moral feeling, immediately laid hold of the unfortunate black, in the presence of the magistrate and of Mr. Sharp, declaring that he was his property, and he would keep possession of him. This was too much for the spirit of an Englishman like Mr. Sharp to endure; he instantly demanded protection for the man, and had the master taken into custody for a breach of the peace, at the same time exhibiting a charge against him for the assault and battery. The Lord Mayor received the charge, and the arrogant West Indian was committed to the compter, till he should find bail for his appearance at the sessions. A *certiorari* however, was obtained, whereby the cause was removed into the court of king's bench, after which it was submitted to the decision of the twelve judges, by whom it was unanimously determined, that the master's conduct was contrary to law, and that negroes as well as others were free on English ground.

This great and important decision, which was the effect

effect of Mr. Sharp's benevolence and perseverance, led his thoughts still farther to the case and condition of the unfortunate Africans. Many of those poor creatures were living in a state of wretchedness in and about London, after being abandoned by their employers. Mr. Sharp collected these children of misfortune together, and wholly at his own expence he sent them to Africa, where they established a settlement on the banks of the river Sierra Leone, and called their town, out of gratitude to their generous patron and benefactor, *Granville*.

Hence it happened in a natural course, that the active and generous mind of Mr. Sharp was turned to the great question of slavery in general, and to that of the negroes in particular. The more he considered this subject, the more was he persuaded of the iniquity of the slave trade; and he not only published an able and curious treatise against the continuance of this traffic, but he set himself about forming plans for putting an end to it. This produced the society for abolishing the slave trade, of which Mr. Sharp has been the president from the first establishment of that institution, to which the cause of humanity is so much indebted. After a long struggle, and inconceivable obstructions, the joint accumulation of interest, policy, ingenuity and power, the efforts of this virtuous patriot, and his worthy associates, obtained the only reward at which they aimed, the termination of the trade of human blood. When the bill for the abolition had received the royal assent, a general meeting of the society was held at the Free Mason's Tavern, and after the resolutions were carried for forming an establishment for carrying the blessings of civilization into Africa,

Africa, thanks were voted to Mr. Sharp and others, for their unremitted exertions, in this great christian cause.

Another important question, in determining which Mr. Sharp has been principally engaged, was the legality of press-warrants, the discussion of which was occasioned by the following circumstance:—A freeman of London, named Mellichip, was impressed into the naval service, and taken on board the receiving ship at the Nore. Application was made to the Lord Mayor for an order for his discharge, which was readily granted; but as the man was out of his Lordship's jurisdiction, no regard was paid to the mandate. Mr. Sharp then moved the Court of King's Bench for a writ of Habeas Corpus to bring Mellichip into court, which he obtained, and the case was argued before Lord Mansfield, who ordered the man to be set at liberty, as having been illegally detained.

The American war, in which we were then engaged, met with Mr. Sharp's decided opposition, and it was on account of his disapprobation of the measures of the British government in that unfortunate contest, that he relinquished a valuable situation in the Tower which he might have continued to enjoy, but, with a nice sense of honour, he conceived it wrong to hold a place under ministers whose conduct he condemned. It was this circumstance, together with his well-known character for intrepidity and patriotism, that induced the American congress to transmit their proposals for an accommodation between the two countries to Mr. Sharp, who delivered the propositions to Lord George Germaine, then secretary of state for American affairs, by whom they were rejected; and thus thirteen colonies,

colonies, with their appendages, were separated from the parent state.

In considering Mr. Sharp as a writer, we are struck with the variety of his talents as much as by the general excellence of his literary performances. As a legal antiquary and politician, he has distinguished himself by "A Declaration on the natural right of the people to a share in the Legislature:" the principles stated and argued upon in this desultory pamphlet, were more amply diffused and reasoned in two other works, the one entituled, "The Legal Means of Political Reformation;" and the other, "A View of the State of Government under the System of Frankpledge."

In these productions, the author has advocated the cause of parliamentary reform in a very vigorous, but at the same time, very singular manner. In his zeal for this great object, he has ventured to point out a plan, which, like many others, involving the correction of public abuses, and a change in the radical principles of the constitution, may justly be ranked among the visionary schemes of well-intentioned but intemperate projectors. What is very extraordinary in the plan of Mr. Sharp is, that he travels back into the darker ages for a model of parliaments and of civil government. He is for restoring the ancient tithings, or that system by which the country was divided into small societies of ten men each, who elected from out of their number a conservator of the peace, called a tithing man. Ten of these societies our reformer would have united into a larger body, termed a hundred, over whom should preside a constable; and ten of these societies again he proposes should make a large assembly,

bly, called "The Thousand," who should yearly choose the alderman or chief magistrate. Inferior causes, he proposes, should be determined once a month by a jury in the hundred court; and these of a higher and more complicated kind by a jury in the court of the thousand. In these courts he would vest the right of forming the national militia, and of choosing the representative legislature. Such is a brief outline of this ingenious, but whimsical speculation which may be fitly appended to some future edition of the Utopia of Sir Thomas More, or the Oceana of Harrington. Yet the scheme has found its admirers, and it has been gravely recommended as worthy of imitation, because it was in some degree the institution of Alfred, and has a resemblance to the polity of the Israelites—*in the wilderness.*

We turn from this political romance to subjects of a more serious and instructive nature. Mr. Sharp has exerted his abilities with considerable strength of argument and ingenuity, against the abominable practice of Duelling which he has proved to be, let the circumstances be what they may, contrary to law. The publication in which he treats this subject, bears the title of "Remarks on the distinction between Man-slaughter and Murder."

One of his earliest literary performances, for we find it impossible either to notice them all, or to mention those we do remember, in exact chronological order, was a tract in 1768, entitled, "Remarks on several Important prophecies."

This performance does great credit to the learning and judgment of Mr. Sharp. He differs from Bishop Newton in the interpretation of some of the prophe-

cies, and he defends others with great force of argument, against the Socinian objections and perversions of a Dr. Williams. The doctor, it seems, denied the application of the prophecy of Isaiah vii. 14, to the birth of Christ, and on being closely urged by Mr. Sharp, with the express quotation of the passage by St. Matthew, to get rid of the application and the argument altogether, he very cavalierly denied the authenticity of the two first chapters in the gospel of that evangelist. This circumstance drew Dr. Caleb Fleming into the field of controversy also, who, though he was a Socinian himself, was shocked at this way of getting over objections, by lopping off whole verses and chapters of the scriptures. He defended the chapters in question in an unanswerable manner, and when Mr. Sharp found that the cause was so well taken up, he very judiciously quitted the field of combat.

Another valuable tract written by Mr. Sharp, is that "On the Law of Nature and the Principles of Action in Man," in which, he exposes the metaphysical jargon of the deists with singular dexterity, and maintains the necessity of divine revelation by some novel arguments.

But one of the most extraordinary, and certainly one of the ablest performances of our author is his little treatise "On the Uses of the Definitive Article in the Greek Text of the New Testament." This work first appeared in the second Fasciculus of the Museum Oxoniense; the editor of which, Dr. Burgess, (now Lord Bishop of St. David's) caused it to be reprinted in a small tract with additions, at Durham, in 1798. The rule of construction here deduced from the structure of the Greek language is very happily

applied to the correction of several passages in the authorized English version of the New Testament, and which passages, when rendered according to Mr. Sharp's ideas, will be found to contain irrefragable testimonies to the divinity of our Saviour. A large collection of texts is exhibited to afford sufficient and satisfactory instances of the rule thus laid down: and so confident was the learned editor of the truth of the entire principle, that he "earnestly recommended it to the deliberate consideration of that acute scholar Gilbert Wakefield," but whether he ever took the subject into his consideration does not appear.

Mr. Sharp, however, had the satisfaction of finding his work approved of by most men competent to appreciate its merit: and, in 1802, a learned divine, now chaplain to his grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, published, "Six Letters to Granville Sharp, Esq. respecting his Remarks on the Uses of the Definitive Article in the Greek Text of the New Testament." The general object of this erudite performance, was to arrive at the same conclusions with our author, but by another road; and to establish the same important truths by a perfectly distinct train of reasoning. Mr. Sharp had selected his examples by way of illustrating and supporting his rule from the New Testament, the author of the letters took the uncommon pains of going through almost all the vast remains of the Greek and Latin Fathers; and, by a most patient and laborious examination, he was enabled to confirm the rule beyond all doubt.

But, notwithstanding, this writer was found hardy enough to oppose both Mr. Sharp and his learned ally. Under the assumed name of Gregory Blunt, Esq. this

lame

lame defender of Socinianism addressed "Six more Letters to Granville Sharp, Esq. on his Remarks upon the Uses of the Article in the Greek Testament." In this curious pamphlet which has been long since consigned over to the "Tomb of the Capulets," the anonymous writer, instead of invalidating the rule, or shewing the irrelevancy of the evidences, quibbles about words, and in a most disingenuous, illiberal manner, charges Mr. Sharp with having had no learned education, but as having been bred a mechanic or manufacturer, circumstances which, if true, would only have redounded the more to his honour.

Our author took some notice of this scurrilous performance in his preface to the third edition of his remarks, printed in 1803; and his valuable friend, the Bishop of St. David's, condescended to give Mr. Blunt a gentle castigation, in a note subjoined to his primary charge the year following. After exposing the ignorance and disingenuity of this critic, the bishop pays the following compliment to the author of the "Remarks on the Definitive Article." "They who know," says his lordship, "how to value the stability of their own faith, or the unity of the Christian church, will think themselves infinitely obliged to Mr. Sharp, for his *Remarks*, and for shewing them, that, from the legitimate and grammatical construction of the New Testament, results one of the strongest evidences and, in itself, an irrefragable proof of the divinity of Christ."

Yet another writer ventured to enter the lists with Mr. Sharp, not, however, on the direct merits of his invaluable rule, but against the doctrine of which that rule was considered as an immoveable buttress. The performance of this writer, bears the title of "A Vindication

dication of Certain Passages in the Common English Version of the New Testament," and the whole design of the author is to shew that the texts quoted by Mr. Sharp, in the illustration of his rule have nothing to do with the Divinity of Jesus Christ. The tract is petulantly written, but it contains nothing novel or ingenious. Mr. Sharp, however, published last year a very satisfactory answer to this writer's objections to the Catholic doctrine in "A Dissertation on the supreme Divine Dignity of the Messiah, proposed as a fifth Appendix to the third Edition of the Remarks."

The perusal of this excellent little piece must excite high admiration at the vigour of intellect possessed by the author at his very advanced period of life; and another circumstance equally pleasing, is to see with what Christian meekness and true politeness, he treats his forward and dogmatical opponent. Polemical divinity is of itself sufficiently apt to rouse the angry passions: and when adopted by old men, too generally degenerates into personal abuse and rancour. There is nothing of this in Mr. Sharp's last-mentioned tract; and it were to be wished that he had always written in the same spirit; but the truth is, in some of his former publications, he treated names of great worth and talents with an asperity very inconsistent with his general character for urbanity and benevolence. In a little book, entitled, "An Inquiry whether the Description of Babylon, contained in the 18th Chapter of the Revelations agrees perfectly with Rome as a City?" he inveighs very bitterly against that great and good man Edmund Burke, whom he accuses as being "a papistical Jacobin."

This idle calumny was often brought forward, as the author

author of the present sketch remembers, by way of ridiculing Mr. Burke, and particularly when he was candidate for Bristol; but no man of sense ever believed it, and since his death his character both as a statesman and a protestant has been sufficiently vindicated.

In 1804, Mr. Sharp printed "Three Tracts on the Syntax and Pronunciation of the Hebrew Tongue, with an Appendix addressed to the Hebrew Nation."

In this volume the learned author has pointed out some particularities of considerable importance in the Hebrew tongue, principally with regard to the conversive powers of the letter *vau*, by which it changes the signification of præterites into the future, and the contrary. On these changes Mr. Sharp has bestowed more attention than any grammarian before him, and he has by that means been enabled to deduce certain rules for these conversions, which are plain and invariable. In this work, however, there is much of adventitious matter; and some fanciful expositions of particular prophecies; but, upon the whole, it does great credit to the learning, ingenuity, and piety of the writer, and must be of considerable service to the Hebrew scholar.

Mr. Sharp has published several other pieces, of whose titles we are ignorant; and he has besides printed some tracts which have not hitherto been exposed for sale. Among these is one on "Predestination and Free-will, with a Postcript on Eternal Punishments;" in which he combats the Calvinistic doctrines with great ability. He also maintains the commonly-received opinion of the eternity of future punishments, by a display of scriptural texts, and by a critical disquisition on the *Hebrew* and *Greek* words made

use of to denote the nature and duration of future torment. This tract, whatever may be thought of the author's opinion, is sufficiently curious to deserve publication; and why it should have been suppressed by him is difficult to be accounted for, knowing, as we do, that his sentiments on the subjects treated of in it remain the same.

In 1804 an institution was formed in the metropolis, under the designation of the "British and Foreign Bible Society," whose sole object is the wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures. Of this society Mr. Sharp is a member, and was one of the first committee. Early in the following year he presented to the institution his very valuable collection of printed copies of the Bible, New Testament, and Psalter, in various languages, as the Hebrew, Arabic, Greek, Egyptian or Coptic, Syriac, Ethiopic, Latin, Gothic, French, German, Spanish, &c. For this present he received the following letter of acknowledgment from the noble president:—

TO GRANVILLE SHARP, ESQ.

Clapham, Jan. 7, 1805.

"SIR,

"IT is with the sincerest satisfaction I execute the instructions of the Committee of the Bible Society, in returning their most cordial thanks to you, for the very valuable collection of Bibles, Testaments, and Psalters, in different languages, which you have presented to them. I cannot, indeed, but feel a peculiar gratification in the opportunity thus afforded me, of expressing the sense entertained by the committee, of the great value of the donation itself, as well as of the

 high

high estimation in which they hold the donor. That Providence may long continue to you, with every blessing, the enjoyment of a life, which you have adorned no less by your talents than your virtues, is the unanimous wish of all, and of none more sincerely, than of him who has the honour to subscribe himself, with the greatest regard and esteem,

"Sir,

"Your most obedient humble servant,

"TEIGNMOUTH."

Mr. Sharp is a very sincere member of the church of England; and, when in London, a constant attendant at the cathedral service of St. Paul's. He is a very zealous advocate for the episcopal form of church government, and when the American bishops came to England for consecration, he had the honour of introducing them to the late Archbishop of Canterbury.

To his other qualifications he joins a great taste for, and knowledge of music. His favourite instrument is the harp; and he is so fond of the old English madrigals, that he instituted a select society for the purpose of singing them once a week, during winter, at the Crown and Anchor Tavern.

In his stature he is of the middle size, thin, and active. His features are pleasing and lively; indicative of the benevolence and cheerfulness of his disposition. He has always led a single life, and he enjoys in the vale of years the serenity resulting from the consciousness of having improved his time and his talents to the glory of his Creator, and the good of his fellow-creatures.

MR.

MR. PALMER,

LATE SURVEYOR AND COMPTROLLER-GENERAL OF THE POST-OFFICE, AND NOW ONE OF THE M. P.' FOR THE CITY OF BATH.

THIS worthy character, who, for his patriotic exertions, valuable improvements, and infinite services which he has rendered his country, is justly entitled to a place in our miscellany, is a native of the city he now represents.

We find, that in the year 1384, JOHN PALMERE was one of the members for Bath, of whose family, that of the present member is a branch; and he is related by his maternal side to the Longs of Wiltshire, one of the oldest and most respectable families in the kingdom. His father was engaged for many years in a considerable brewery and extensive concerns at Bath, and, with some other inhabitants of the city, erected an elegant theatre there, of which, after a long and expensive contest with the proprietors of the former theatre, who had violated their engagements, and during which his partners wearied out with the opposition they experienced, disposed of their shares, he became the sole proprietor, the reward of his perseverance for the maintenance of his just rights.

The present Mr. Palmer, in the earlier periods of his life, had given proofs of promising abilities, which were now called into action. The theatre at Bath had become

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Lord Cochrane

Mr. Palmer

Pub. June [illegible] by James Cundee, London.

come a valuable concern, but was liable to much injury from being unprotected by the laws, and still subject to rivalry as well as to the severity of the then existing act of parliament against public dramatic representations, with the exception of the two theatres in the metropolis, and that only during the actual residence of royalty.

It became therefore advisable to obtain a parliamentary protection for it. His father presented a petition to parliament for that purpose, and Mr. Palmer became engaged in the accomplishment of an object requiring considerable address; for this was not only the first act of parliament that had ever passed for an English theatre, but his Majesty had not even the power of extending his protection to a theatre beyond the metropolis. He, however, not only eventually succeeded in obtaining the act, but also gained his Majesty's patent. This circumstance naturally introduced him to the notice of many of the most leading characters of the day, amongst whom were the Duke of Kingston, the late venerable Earl Camden, the Marquis of Lansdown, Earl of Aylesbury, and many others, with whose regard he was always particularly distinguished.

To the attainment of these objects may be attributed in great measure the extension of this species of property throughout the kingdom, as well as the generally improved state of the British theatre.

In the progress of his theatrical pursuits, he has sometimes exerted literary abilities that were highly creditable to him. His defence of Arthur the comedian and friend of Garrick, in the public prints of that time, routed the critics, and regained the applause of the

the public to the much injured actor, and he ever afterwards enjoyed the friendship of the English Roscius.

In the midst of the attention to a concern so fascinating to young minds, he established a spermaceti manufactory near Bath, which, though an art entirely in its infancy, he brought to much perfection, and made it a very lucrative adventure; but whilst occupied with this business of some magnitude, he was compelled to use extraordinary exertions to resist an insurrection amongst the performers at his theatre, who disliking their manager, Mr. Lee, had resolved to break their engagements.

This combination he effectually crushed, by immediately visiting many of the provincial companies, and by travelling most expeditiously, and making a most judicious selection of the most promising talents, with which he formed a new company, and then dismissing the mal-contents, he restored the enjoyment of a favourite amusement to the public.

He afterwards united the property of the Bristol theatre with his own, and by his frequently transplanting the principal and most promising performers from the provincial theatrés, both these cities have derived a superior degree of entertainment, and they have become the principal nursery from which the most eminent performers of the present day have been produced.

In the midst of these his own occupations, he has not been regardless to the general interests of others, and to the improvement and welfare of Bath. He has filled all the magisterial offices of it in a manner that has reflected the greatest credit upon his character, which

was

was distinguished for loyalty, hospitality, and benevolence, at a period when those qualities were particularly requisite from the public difficulties of the times.

In his mayoralty he recommended a general public subscription for the service of the state—the ministry adopted his ideas; and he, as having been the first proposer, subscribed a proportionate share of his own fortune, according to the spirit of his address; and his relative, Mr. Walter Long, of Bath (since deceased), and his sisters, paid their subscriptions, of 3000 guineas. Soon after this, he appears to have suggested the expediency of a subscription "Towards the payment of the principal and interest of the loan, and the expences for the vigorous prosecution of the war if found *absolutely necessary*."

His mayoralty was also distinguished for his having had the honour of entertaining the Heir Apparent in a manner suited to the exalted rank he holds in this country.

Many of the improvements of the city of Bath, especially of what is called the Old Town, have originated from his suggestions; and there is no doubt, but had they been more generally adopted, the property of its inhabitants would have been rendered still more valuable than they are.

In all the situations of Mr. Palmer's life, we trace the operations of an original and energetic mind, combining with it an ardent passion for the public good. And even the exertions he was compelled to use for the establishment and protection of his theatrical property, by taking such active measures, and travelling so expeditiously, have ultimately tended to that purpose;

pose; for during some of these journies it was, that the idea first occurred to him, that the means of individual conveyance might be made there for correspondence also. Hence arose his plan for the improvement of the posts, and of reform in the management of the department of the post-office, by which the commerce of the country, and its revenue, has been highly benefited, the social ties of life in all parts of the world have been drawn nearer together, and there is no doubt but the name of John Palmer will be perpetuated with a grateful public, by the national structure he has erected by his own talents and perseverance.

The numerous and very expeditious journies Mr. Palmer had occasionally made on his theatrical pursuits, and the opportunities they had afforded him of witnessing what could be effected by means of coaches; and the great inconvenience he had experienced in the correspondence of his extensive concerns by the slowness and the irregularity of the post, first gave him the ideas of his plan; and the laudable ambition of acquiring a large fortune by the accomplishment of an object of such great national importance, urged him to pursue them.

He naturally considered, that if Mr. Allen by the very partial improvements he had made in the cross posts, and that principally by the checks he had established, could acquire so large a fortune, the advantages he ought to derive for his family, should be proportionably greater as the services the country would probably derive from his plans, would be of a far more extensive nature. His mind being so possessed with these ideas, he now determined to extend his observations to every part of the kingdom, where stage coaches

had been established, the manner they were conducted in, and how they were united upon the different roads, so that in point of time and connection they could be regulated for the conveyance of the mails. In the progress of his journies, no object appears to have escaped him from which information could be obtained. He minutely examined the routes of the different posts, and the management of the offices, and became fully informed of the numerous and shameful abuses that existed in that department, and the great necessity of their reform; but at the same time he saw the magnitude of the task he had undertaken, and that it would require all his perseverance to overcome the difficulties that lay before him; but no one more eminently possessed the talents to effect such a reform, or a mind more calculated to stem the torrent of opposition he was doomed to encounter.

To enter into the history of this great reform of the post-office, and all the events relating to it, would far exceed the limits of our publication. But as the subject is so interesting to a public who have derived such immense advantages from the great exertions and abilities of this much injured individual, and who stand pledged to fulfil their agreement with him, we shall select from the mass of papers that have been produced concerning it, such parts as appear to us best calculated to inform our readers on this grand object, which has been so successfully carried into execution.

Mr. Palmer having been suspended by the postmaster general from the management of his plan, and deprived of the advantages of his agreement with government, applied to parliament for redress, and a

committee was appointed in April 1797, "to consider of the agreement made with him for the reform and improvement of the post-office and its revenue, and to enquire into the causes of his suspension, and to report to the house the evidence received."

This evidence was afterwards printed at the desire of the petitioner, and laid before the house, and a considerable debate* took place on the subject, on the 31st of May, 1797, when the Hon. Mr. Pierrepoint, in the clearest and most convincing manner, pointed out the great advantages the country derived from the plan, and the great ability of Mr. Palmer, and the honourable† testimony of the postmasters-general of his integrity being unimpeached. He then proceeded to state the following facts, established before the committee, and reported by them in the evidence laid before the house of commons.

FACTS

Established before the committee, and reported by them in the house of commons, by which it appears that Mr. PALMER's contract with government was, that if he should be able to [illegible] his plan into execution, for extending and improving the posts, and for the more safe and expeditious, and regular conveyance of the mails he was to have for his life *Two and a Half per cent, or the fortieth part only of all the future net increased revenue of the Post Office, but in case of failure he was not to receive a Shilling for his sacrifices in the neglect of his other concerns, expences, trouble,*

* Vide Woodfall's Parliamentary Reports, Vol. 20.

† Mr. Pierrepoint, in the committee, asked Lord Walsingham and Earl Chesterfield, the then postmasters general, "Whether they had ever any reason to entertain a doubt of the personal integrity of Mr. Palmer?" And they both replied,

"No, never in the smallest degree."

&c,

&c. &c. It is to be observed, that during the sixty years preceding this agreement, notwithstanding the great increase in the trade and commerce of the country through so long a period, the net revenue of the post office had experienced no increase whatever, except what it derived from an alteration in the postage and the restriction on franks laid on in 1764-5. On the contrary, for the nine years preceding the adoption of Mr. Palmer's plan, it had decreased 15,198*l.* 13*s* *per annum.*

So low a per centage was originally proposed by Mr. PALMER to avoid the possibility of any dispute about the objects from which it might arise, and he always openly professed the great expectations he had formed of the advantage that would accrue to his family from it, if the plan succeeded, and his life was prolonged.

Mr. ALLEN, who, in 1720, made some partial improvements in the cross posts, as a reward for the benefit derived from it to the trade and commerce of the country, was granted a farm of those posts during his life, for above forty-two years, and nearly the whole increased revenue *to the amount of above* 12,000*l. per annum, which the Postmaster General declared to be only "the natural fruits of his own industry and services."*

Mr. PALMER, having after some years perseverance against a continued opposition, effected his plan, and never having during the whole of that period, agreeably to his stipulation, received one shilling from government, was then for the *first* time informed, they wished a variation to be made in the plain and specific agreement before mentioned, and it was proposed, instead thereof, that he should accept a *Patent Appointment for Life under the Crown,* with a salary of 1,500*l.* per annum, and two and an half per cent. on all future net increase of the post office revenue, beyond 240,000*l.* which Mr. PALMER consented to, though it was 750*l.* per annum less than his original agreement.

Agreeably to this modification, mutually agreed to by both parties, a draft, of an appointment for life under the crown, was drawn up at the treasury, and to prevent future obstruction and injury to the public, INDEPENDANT OF ANY CONTROUL WHAT-

EVER, that Mr. Palmer might be left to his own judgment in the improvement and conduct of his plan; this however did not take effect, because the ATTORNEY GENERAL thought a new act of parliament necessary to confirm it.

The Board of Treasury being unwilling to apply for this act, Mr. Palmer was unable to obtain a completion of this promised appointment, and proceeded in the extension of his plans with the limited authority, he was obliged FOR THE PRESENT to act with, necessarily depending on the faith and protection of his employers.

The Commissioners of Enquiry appointed by the House of Commons, report as follows, viz.

"The opposition which Mr. PALMER experienced from the "*oldest and ablest* officers in the service, who represented his plan "not only to be impracticable, but dangerous to commerce and "the revenue, induced us to examine and weigh, with great at- "tention, the numerous documents and informations which have "been furnished us by both parties, in opposition to, and in sup- "port of the measure, in consequence whereof, we are enabled to "state, that Mr. PALMER has exceeded the expectations, which "he held forth in his first proposal with regard to the *dispatch* "and the *expence*; at the same time that the revenue is aug- "mented, answers are returned to letters in *less* than *half* the "time, and with a degree of punctuality *never* experienced be- "fore; the expence is at a less rate per mile THAN UPON THE OLD "PLAN, and has been effected for 20,000*l.* *less* per annum than "the sum *first* proposed by Mr. PALMER, and the accounts of "the post-office are an undeniable proof of the great increase of "its revenue in consequence of his plan.

"As an engagement had been entered into, about the year "1720, by the Post-master General for the time being, with the "late RALPH ALLEN, Esq. for farming the cross posts, and which "met the approbation of the public, we were induced to enquire "into the particulars, by which we found that those improve- "ments were of a limited nature, and that Mr. ALLEN did not "fully disclose his plan, or mode of conducting it for above forty years,

"years, and that the profits he derived therefrom were *very large*; "whereas the improvements suggested, and *already executed* by "Mr. Palmer, are *far more extensive*, and of so *much importance* "to the commerce of this country, as to have justified the measure, "although it had been accompanied with additional expence; at "the same time Mr. Palmer has acted with openness, and without reserve; nor is it probable, he will ever reap the benefit "Mr. Allen obtained.

"We must further observe that Mr. Allen met with none of "those difficulties that Mr. Palmer has experienced, and which "required all his activity and perseverance *aided by the firm and "liberal support of government* to surmount, against a most powerful opposition, and every obstruction that could be thrown in "his way, by officers of this department."

And after going on to state the delay, irregularity, and confusion, that prevailed in the office, previous to the reform, and the beneficial effects arising from various, and extensive improvements he had carried into execution, they declare, "Under these "circumstances, we are of opinion, that Mr. Palmer is justly entitled to the compensation he claims, being a very small part "of that revenue which his ingenuity, activity, and zeal have "created over and above the convenience, and numerous collateral advantages which the public, and more particularly the "commerce of the country, reap from the safe and speedy conveyance of the mails."

It is presumed the Board of Treasury can produce no instance, from their earliest records, of an agreement more cautiously guarded on the part of government, more advantageous to the public, or more completely executed on the part of the individual contracted with.

BEFORE THE REFORM.

The Post-Office revenue after the progress of near two centuries prior to 1783, did not exceed	150,000*l.*

The number of news-papers, annually sent from the London Office, was less than	Two millions.
A very great annual expence was formerly sustained both by government and individuals for expresses, and the number used annually to Bristol alone, to exceed	Two hundred expresses for one city only.
The annual expence incurred in rewards for apprehension, and costs in prosecution for mail robberies, was formerly very considerable; exclusive of loss and inconvenience to individuals, it cost the public	Several thousand pounds.

SINCE THE REFORM.

The annual Post revenue in April 1798, had amounted to above	600,000*l*.
Number of news papers, now annually sent by the London Office (only) above	Eight millions.
Number of expresses to the whole kingdom, both for government and individuals, when last examined did not amount annually to	Forty for the whole kingdom.
As to expences for apprehension, and prosecution of mail robbers, although the coaches have now travelled above forty millions of miles, not a single robbery has been committed, or a passenger insulted.	0 0 0.

The terms for the conveyance of the mails on the new plan, are 24,000*l*. per annum *less* than Mr. Palmer originally proposed and contracted for with government, and with a saving of 12,000*l*. *per annum* in the expences of their conveyance by the old mode.

Mr. Pierrepoint then observed, that besides such a very convincing statement of facts, although he considered it almost unnecessary, yet he could not avoid adding the following opinion of four of the most eminent counsel in the kingdom.

OPINION.

"WE have perused the evidence contained in the report of the committee appointed to consider of the agreement made with Mr. Palmer, for the reform and improvement of the Post-Office, &c. and we are of opinion, that by that evidence, the agreement, as insisted upon by Mr. Palmer, is proved; by which, as it was originally made, Mr. Palmer would have been entitled to the per centage upon the increase of the then net revenue of the Post-Office; and that by the agreement as after modified, he was entitled to 1,500*l.* a year, and a per centage upon the net revenue exceeding 240,000*l.* a year. And we are of opinion, that Mr. Palmer has fully performed his part of the agreement, much to the advantage of the public. We are also of opinion, (which indeed it is impossible to doubt) that if a patent had been granted to Mr. Palmer, as originally intended, nothing which has since passed could have deprived him of the benefit of his agreement; because all that is imputed now to Mr. Palmer arises from misunderstandings and disputes between the Postmaster-General and him, and which could never have existed if a patent had been granted to him as was originally intended, under which he would not have been in any respect dependant on the Postmaster-General. We are also of opinion, that though by the appointment which was granted to Mr Palmer, different from that originally intended he was made subject to the controul of the Postmaster-General, (because, by the constitution of the Post-Office, as established by act of parliament, no patent could be granted to him, by which he could act independently of the Postmaster-General) yet there is nothing in the above mentioned evidence which ought to deprive him of the benefit of his agreement, nor which would, in a court of justice, have that effect. It is established by this evidence, that the public derived from Mr. Palmer's

mer's exertions all the benefit which he had held forth as likely to accrue from them; and that he acted with diligence, and with perfect integrity in the discharge of his duty. And although we do not approve of the letters written by Mr. Palmer to his deputy, Mr. Bonner, which are the grounds for depriving Mr. Palmer of the benefit of his agreement, and we do not say that a subordinate officer in any department, ought not to behave with respect to his superiors, we think those letters are far from a sufficient ground to deprive him of that benefit. We also think it very doubtful whether a court of judicature would have thought that any attention ought to be paid to these letters, because they were written in confidence to his deputy, and under an impression (though probably ill-founded) that the Postmaster-General were unfavourable to him, or from mistake, or misconception, were thwarting and impeding him in the execution of his plan. And we think it appears from evidence, that the deputy who communicated those letters to the Postmaster-General, and thus betrayed his private confidential correspondence, was himself worthy of no credit, and acted a very blameable part in the transaction with White, as appears from the report.

J. MANSFIED.

T. ERSKINE,

V. GIBBS.

WILLIAM ADAM.

24th April ...

Mr. Pierrepoint observed in the course of the debate, that it had been clearly proved that an agreement had been made with Mr. Palmer, by which he was to receive two and a half per cent. upon the encrease of the post-office revenue beyond a certain sum, if he carried his plan into effect.

Mr. Palmer *did* carry it into effect in the most complete manner, and that having so discharged *his* duty, and performed *his* part of the contract, the public is bound

bound to perform theirs; and it did not appear, that by any acts of Mr. Palmer, he had incurred a forfeiture of his right to it. He then moved the resolutions expressive of Mr. Palmer's agreement, and merits, and the beneficial effects of it upon the commerce and the revenue of the country at large, and that he was therefore entitled to the fulfilment of it.

A very spirited and interesting debate then took place, and it was moved that the chairman do leave the chair, which was then carried, and the question thus remains undecided.

In the review of this important and national business, it is difficult to account for the unsettled manner in which it rests, not only as it affects Mr. Palmer, from his agreement not being fulfilled, but from the loss the public have sustained hitherto from the temporary privation of the services of a man who has *proved* himself so efficient, from whom the country has already derived so much advantage, and has therefore every reason to expect more, especially when we consider the strong support Mr. Pitt originally gave to the plan, and the acknowledgment of the agreement in the committee, an agreement which ought surely to be held sacred; as part, and a vital part of the *good faith* of the nation to an individual who has proved himself a *national benefactor.*

By the original agreement made with Mr. Palmer, his compensation was merely for effecting his plan; but by Mr. Pitt's modification of it at a subsequent period, his *emolument was diminished, while his services were extended* to an universal control over the department. Of the necessity of this the minister appeared fully aware; and the commissioners of enquiry, after stating

stating various abuses which he had reformed in the post-office, declared in their report, that "Such an appointment as Mr. Palmer's, originating with the Lords of the Treasury, and independent of the post-office, was absolutely necessary to prevent their future accumulation."—And it seems as if Mr. Pitt intended to have given him such powers; but though nothing can be more just than the principle, that the inventor of a plan should be proportionably interested in its success, and should have the immediate management and control of it, yet we fear, in this instance, an unwillingness to disturb old establishments, and the power that naturally is attached to official connexions, and the apprehensions all governments feel of diminishing their strength, by decreasing their patronage, weighed too strongly in those precarious and unfavourable times. Against the requisite act being obtained for that purpose, and under these circumstances, therefore, the minister perhaps found it necessary to forego the engagements he had made, and for the want of his promised powers being confirmed to him, may be attributed all the ill consequences that have resulted to Mr. Palmer.

But, whilst we are in the enjoyment of the benefit resulting from the plans of this superior character, we are too apt to think but little of the vast exertions both of body and mind he must have undergone to attain this grand national object.

Before the commencement of this plan, he generally acquired his information from the *actual* observation of all the circumstances *attendant upon a journey by public carriages*; the unnecessary stoppages; the stupidity,

pidity, carelessness and intoxication of coachmen, and the avarice of coach-masters overlading their carriages, at once causing delays and dangers to their passengers. The great inequality of the *time* for the performance of the different stages, and the partiality of the coachmen to the property of different proprietors, all tending to defeat his views, which were not only to unite the conveyance of mails with that of passengers, but to obtain, if possible, a greater rate of speed than is even now effected; and there is no doubt, but this might have been done, could he have laid aside those humane feelings, of which no one is more susceptible than the worthy object of this memoir, and sacrificed a constant punctuality at all seasons, so desirable to passengers as well as to correspondents; for by the introduction of shorter stages for the cattle, and regulating their different hours of labour and repose, and of feeding, as well as limiting the number of passengers, and weight of baggage, a more regular and expeditious rate of speed is kept up to by mail-coaches; and now, from their example, by other well regulated public carriages, than is generally obtained by post-chaises, and with equal safety.

When he was well assured, from such labours—earned *experience*, of what he could accomplish, he had then to encounter the determined opposition of a department in whose abuses so many of its officers were interested, whose errors were to be exposed and corrected, and whose old modes of business were to be absolutely *annihilated*. Difficulty arose upon difficulty, and volumes of objections succeeded each other, all which he had to answer, and which could only be done

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by the acquirement of the actual knowledge of the business of the various post-offices.

We here extract a small part from some of the voluminous objections to Mr. Palmer's plan, and his answer, by which some idea may be formed of what he must have had to encounter in the progress of his plan throughout the whole kingdom.

EXTRACT *from further* OBJECTIONS *to Mr.* PALMER'S PLAN, *for improving the* POSTS *of this* KINGDOM.

" If the present course of the post is to be altered, the whole system of conducting the bye and cross-road letter business must go through an entire change. The taxing and circulating of letters must be new modelled at every post-office in the kingdom, new and uncertain channels must be found out for the conveyance of them at different turns into other roads and branches, and new cheeques and accounts must be invented to answer a new mode of conveyance, all of which every officer, now employed to manage that branch of the revenue, will have to inform themselves, and of many other particulars, before they can be able to issue proper instructions to the deputy post-masters for their conduct; and this business will be varying, as Mr. Palmer proceeds further in the execution of his plan, which will be a work of infinite labour and much time, and it is apprehended will not be perfect at last.—Every post-town in the bye and cross-roads is a centre to itself, and the duty of it varies from the next office in some degree more or less, as the situation of those offices may happen to be.—Not general but particular instructions must be prepared for each deputy, adapted to the circumstances of the situation of his office, and this is to be done with above 300 post-towns; should the whole scheme be put into execution at once, it must be a work of great care and labour; and to do it by piece-meal, the time and difficulty will be infinitely greater, and the confusion more increased; for what may be done on one part of a road, if but a branch, or a cross-road communication should be afterwards altered, the whole business must be done over again; and if an entire road was completed, (it may, for argument sake, be said the

the Chester,) yet, when either the north or the Bristol road is settled, then all the communications between them must go through another long and tedious arrangement. It is very confidently asserted, from what has been reported, of the manner Mr. Palmer proposed to establish, for the speedy conveyance of the mails, that from the first outset of it, it will very considerably reduce the profits arising from the new rates of postage on letters, not only passing upon the bye and cross-roads, but likewise to and from London, if it is meant to alter the present course of the post. The injuries and confusion expected to arise from such a measure, cannot be too often or too strongly represented. Mr. Palmer's idea seems chiefly confined to expedition, on straight and the nearest turnpike roads, and to that purpose every other consideration must give way; and where his plan is defective or impracticable, it must be patched up, by having recourse to the old mode of conveyance, so that if so much of his plan as may be practicable was to be carried into execution, it would then be but an imperfect piece of business. Mr. Palmer in his answer says, "The contract from Bristol to Portsmouth, is for those cross-posts, which Mr. Allen in his observations upon my plan, and in the conversation at Mr. Pitt's, particularly selected as utterly impossible to be effected. I therefore thought it more fair for me, to try the most difficult first, and have not the least doubt of making them as perfect and regular, as the new post from Bristol to London;" all that can be selected from Mr. Palmer's answer, in order to obviate the objections mentioned above, is, that the stage-coach master will contract to carry the cross-post from Bristol through the Bradford Branch, to Devizes, and the mails to and from Bristol, Bath, Salisbury, Southampton, and Portsmouth, &c. and to and from Exeter, and the intermediate places, every day in the week. To come at a more particular knowledge of Mr. Palmer's intentions of conveying the cross-road letters in the branch between Bath and Salisbury, and from thence to Portsmouth, it will be proper to make the following queries, viz. If the cross-post is to be conveyed between Bristol, Bath, and the clothing towns of Bradford, Trowbridge, Melksham, and the Devizes, by his stage-coach, and no further, in the Salisbury branch, how is the present line of communication between the

before-mentioned towns, as also Marlborough with Lavington, and Tinhead, and the clothing towns of Westbury, Warminster, and Heytesbury, and the villages in the Bourne to Salisbury, to be kept up? And how is the correspondence between Bradford, Trowbridge, Melksham, the Devizes, and Marlborough, with Salisbury, Hartford-Bridge, Basingstoke, Andover, Amesbury, Odiam, Alton, Petersfield, Havant, Portsmouth, Gosport, Fareham, Southampton, Isle of Wight, Lymington, Winchester, Stockbridge, Pool, Winbourne, Blandford, Wareham, Corfe-Castle, Dorchester, Weymouth, Bridport, Lyme, Shaftesbury, Mere, Wincanton, Heydon, and Sherborne to be carried on? If the stage-coach from Bristol, Bath, and Salisbury, to Southampton, and Portsmouth, is not to go through Stockbridge, Winchester, and Fareham, which is the present course of the post, from Salisbury to Portsmouth, and from which the letters for Alton, Odiam, Petersfield, Gosport, Southampton, Isle of Wight, Lymington, and Rumsey, at present branch off, how is the communication to be preserved between Gosport, Fareham, Petersfield, Alton, Odiam, Rumsey, Winchester, and Stockbridge, with all the towns and places between Salisbury, Bradford, Bath, and Bristol? And if the communication by the old branch between Bath and Salisbury, is cut off at the Devizes, how are the letters from Hampshire, and most parts of Dorsetshire, for the Devizes, Marlborough, Melksham, Trowbridge, and Bradford, to be conveyed? When these questions are answered, another very important point must be settled, viz. the times of the arrival and departure of the cross road mails, at the different offices, whether by stage-coaches, or by any other means, so as to prevent any impediment or delay of the correspondence of the towns before-mentioned, to other parts of the kingdom; and this calculation must be formed with great judgment and exactness with regard to the bye and cross-road correspondence in general, in order that those mails may fall in with the arrival and departure of the London mails, at particular towns in their passage; that letters may be forwarded by them, without putting the revenue to an additional expence, by sending the cross-road letters forward by a distinct conveyance. To illustrate this matter, it will be necessary to state a case of a letter from Dublin, to Penzance, in Cornwall,

Cornwall.—From Holyhead, this letter is conveyed by the mail, for London to Chester, and from thence to Exeter, it is conveyed by the cross at Exeter, it falls in with the mail from London to the west, and is conveyed from Exeter by that mail to Penzance. By these means, there is about 217 miles of additional expence of riding work saved to the revenue. Upon the whole, the more Mr. Palmer's plan is considered, the greater number of difficulties and objections, start to its ever being carried completely into execution; and whatever additional expence or loss may attend the revenue, or inconvenience, injuries, and confusion befal the public correspondence, the officers belonging to the post office ought not to be censured for them, who have, to the best of their judgment and experience, given their separate opinions against the utility and practicability of the scheme *in toto*: and it may, with the greatest truth be asserted, that those opinions have not been formed in a dislike to new and feasible plans, for improvement and reform, nor in an obstinate attachment to long habits and old customs, nor to any mean sinister view, of retaining, if any there are, perquisites enjoyed under the old establishment, which there are not.—Lastly, where difficulties shall arise, either in respect to the circulation of letters, or in tracing out, and fixing the proper taxes, which can only be done by pursuing the route of the stage coaches, and knowing where they change horses, in order to charge the letters by the stages or distances, in forming checque accounts, to be kept of the produce of them, or any other matter belonging to the management of letters, or when complaints are made of inconveniences, or injuries sustained by individuals, in their usual correspondence, in consequence of the alteration of the present route of the posts by the new plan, should it become general, or if greater and more beneficial improvements can be given to correspondence by any alteration of it after it has been established, and in what manner, and by whom are these points to be settled? But the mode of doing this, must be found out by the inventor of this new mode of conveyance, who alone should be responsible for any injury or impediment the public correspondence may sustain, through any fault or defect in the formation of his chimerical plan of improvement and reform: all these foregoing observations comprehend a very small part only of the kingdom."

EXTRACT *from* MR. PALMER'S ANSWER *to the* FURTHER OBJECTIONS.

Mr. Palmer is fully aware of every temporary injury that may possibly arise to correspondence, or the revenue of the general post-office, by any practical failure in his plan, and is sufficiently guarded against them all, excepting only the mischief that may arise to his plan, to correspondence, and the revenue of the general post office from the machinations of the post-officers. These he shall endeavour, as far as possible, to guard against; and though, unfortunately it may not be in his power to prevent, he will take sufficient care to expose the authors of them, be they who they may, sensible as he must be, that they will use every possible means to complete their prophecies.

To answer further, the additional remarks of Mr. Allen's, were only to repeat what has been said again and again; and, after all that can be wrote on the subject, it must depend on what I do, and my ability in carrying my plan into execution, rather than on arguments and refutations.

It may, however, be expected, that I should say something more in answer to his queries, his statement of the perfection of the present cross-posts, and the alarm he endeavours to excite of the ruin that must fall on them, on correspondence, and the revenue, by my plan, though he professes to know nothing of it, and only to guess at my intentions, and to speak on reports of what I mean to do. I should really have no objection to open the whole of my plan to the office, would it answer any other purpose than exciting further delays, disputes, and objections. I shall, however, thus far say of the present cross-posts in general, and my intended improvements of them, that, being fully of opinion, on the strictest examination, that they are established on very wrong and mistaken principles, I intend, wherever I find their circuitous routes injurious to correspondence, to carry them as far as I conveniently can in direct lines through principal towns, and to accommodate those I leave out of the present chain, by branches, fitting them in, of course, at proper hours, with the direct lines so established; and on this principle I engage, that Bristol, and Portsmouth, shall have their correspondence guarded

ed every day in the week, instead of three days, and in one-third of the time they have it at present, unguarded. That all the intermediate places, in the present circuitous chain, shall enjoy, in a great degree, a proportionate improvement in their posts, and this, at no greater expence to the office than the old establishment. It is asserted, that I injured the branches on the Bath road and the cross posts, when my plan was first carried into execution there. The contrary is the case, and the cross-posts are multiplied and partially benefited; and, though it may appear strange, when I am condemning the circuitous route of the old post, yet this has been effected by a circuitous route of letters by the new post, of sixty miles, from Bath to Bradford, instead of seven miles, the direct line. These cross-posts, and likewise from Trowbridge, Westbury, Warminster, Heytesbury, &c. &c. with Devizes, Melksham, Bath, Bristol, &c. &c. had only a three days cross post, which is now exchanged for a daily one, which has the additional advantage of arriving and departing with their London mail; and this is effected from the great expedition of the mail-coach, which crosses the Bradford and Devizes branch at Marlborough, to which office all the letters from these towns are sent by the up-coach at night, where they are sorted and dispatched, according to their different directions, by the down coach the next morning, by passing over the ground so rapidly, and in the night, which not only thus extends and improves, but saves the expence of these cross-posts. These branches are fitted in, and partake the benefit of the new plans; but the inhabitants of the various towns have petitioned government to be allowed a mail-coach for their personal convenience in travelling, and the security of a guard to their correspondence. A coach to and from Marlborough only, could not answer to proprietors. In obedience to commands from the treasury, I have stated the terms on which it can be given, and it rests with government to grant the prayer of their petition, or not, as they may judge proper.

Mr. Allen desires I will inform him, " how, in my proposed alterations, I intend to settle the various cross-posts, so as to fit in properly with each other, and prevent any impediment or delay in correspondence; for that it requires great judgment and exactness to do this, and make them fall in likewise with the London mail, so as to prevent any additional expence by conveying

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them separately?" To illustrate this, he states the case of a letter from Dublin to Penzance; which I beg leave to illustrate still farther, by stating the actual progress of such letter. As there is only a cross-post three days in the week from Ireland and Chester to Penzance, all the Irish letters which arrive, for the west, on the day that post does not go, of course lay with the Chester office twenty-four hours, till the next day. On the common days they likewise wait there many hours after their arrival, before the mail is dispatched; at Bristol they likewise wait twenty-four hours for the arrival of the mails sent from London, on the bye-nights to be conveyed on with them from Wells, &c. and on to Exeter, where they again wait above twelve hours, to be conveyed on with the mails dispatched from London on the general nights; from whence they proceed to Penzance, at little more than the rate of three miles an hour. Incredible as this may appear, such is really the state of these posts; and in addition to it, the general-post through Wells, Bridgewater, &c. and Exeter, are so strangely regulated, that two London mails come in and go out on the same day, and two days mails arrive, and are delivered together, in London; so wonderfully are the general and cross-posts made to benefit each other and the public! The whole of this correspondence I engage to make perfect every day in the week, the mail to arrive and depart at fixed hours each day, at the same rate of expence as the old establishment; and every part of it by coaches guarded, except one or two links, from the Chester road to Birmingham. To effect this, a coach will leave Holyhead, every morning, for London; the west letters will be separated at Chester, as usual, and taken on by this coach to Stone, Litchfield, or Coventry, as on further examination may best suit; from thence by horse to Birmingham, thence by coach to Bath or Bristol; thence by coach, with the Wells, Bridgewater, &c. London mails, on to Exeter, where they will meet the mail-coach from London, through Sarum; and the whole mails be conveyed on together by coaches, to Falmouth and Plymouth. They will proceed on with very little delay, where they fit in, I may almost say, uninterruptedly, and in one third at least the time it is at present performed in. When Mr. Allen therefore, considers the present state of these posts, he may reasonably, I think, drop his apprehensions of any injury, or impediment pub-

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lic correspondence may sustain from my *chimerical* plan of improvement and reform.

J. PALMER.

Yet, after he had so completely replied to these objections, and overcome the obstacles which were perpetually occurring, and the plan had succeeded for upwards of a year, we find him again harassed and perplexed by directions given by the post-office, in the very midst of a severe winter, by which the mail-coaches were thrown into complete confusion, and the contractors flew from their engagements. Higher terms were demanded, and even the government, over-persuaded, or intimidated by the office, deserted Mr. Palmer.

Oppressed with such an accumulation of difficulties, most minds would have sunk under their weight, and the public never would have been in possession of the great advantages of this plan; but Mr. Palmer possessed all the various abilities such an immense undertaking required; a firm and unshaken mind, a spirit of enterprize, strong and acute discernment, and unwearied application and perseverance with friends of great rank and ability, and a considerable property, with every disposition to hazard it, and which he did, for the accomplishment of this plan, which Mr. Sheridan most emphatically said, " none but an enthusiast could have formed or imagined—none but an enthusiast could have made such an agreement for it, and none but an enthusiast could have carried it into execution, and he was confident no man in this country, or in any other, could have performed such an undertaking but John Palmer."

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He however surmounted every difficulty, and the public are now reaping the benefit of his exertions. We wish indeed we could say the proprietor had equal cause with his employers for satisfaction. It is true, he has received the public thanks and freedom of most of the places of consequence* in the United Kingdom; but it is very remarkable, that London is the only solitary example wherein he met with opposition, and from which he never received either compliment or support, although its advantages were greater than any other place.

His plan has likewise been the subject of great encomium with the most approved writers, not only of this, but of foreign countries, who have admired its very beneficial effects here, and have contrasted the superior conveyance and regulations of the mails of this country with their own, and have censured the breach of public faith with the proprietor, who was alienated from his family, and harassed in body and mind for several years: his property too, and extensive concerns, which, before in an improving state, were declining, and, to prevent further losses, he was obliged to dispose of a great part, which could else have afforded a certain establishment for his family; for the person who purchased the brewery only, which belonged to his father, declared, that with an hundredth part of the same exertions and abilities exerted for the country, he might have realized a fortune equal to the whole extent of his agreement with the minister.

His private fortune was also diminished to the amount of 7000*l.* and upwards, to effect this plan of reform of such immense national importance, and that at the hazard of forfeiting all recompense for his labours,

bours, and all the expence he had incurred, unless he had succeeded in its establishment. During the last parliament we find Mr. Palmer, by permission of the crown, presented a petition to the house of commons for the fulfilment of his agreement, and we are enabled to annex it.

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

THE humble petition of John Palmer of the city of Bath, Esq. sheweth, that your petitioner having, in common with other subjects of this kingdom, experienced great inconvenience from the tedious, irregular, and insecure mode of correspondence by the general post, and having had frequent occasions to remark great defects in the establishment of the post-office, which had become a matter of universal complaint, he was induced to give much serious consideration to a grievance of such magnitude, and was ultimately convinced that improvements might be made so as not only to effect a more speedy, regular, and secure conveyance for letters throughout the kingdom, but likewise be the means of providing the same advantages for property and travellers, and at the same time of creating and supporting a gradual, and ultimately a very considerable, increase to the revenue, derivable from the post office, which, instead of keeping pace with the increasing commerce and opulence of the country, had (in consequence of the defects before alluded to) been long in a state of stagnation, if not of actual decrease. In the spring of 1782, your petitioner having arranged the general outline of his proposed reform, and connected with it such an increased rate of postage, with a restriction on franking, as appeared adviseable at the commencement, he communicated the same to the right honourable William Pitt, the then chancellor of his Majesty's exchequer, who immediately conceived so favourable an opinion of the benefit to be obtained for the country if the plan could be effected, that he gave your petitioner every encouragement to proceed, and requested him without delay to procure all possible information on a subject of so much importance, and to spare

no

no pains in bringing the proposed arrangements into such a state as would enable and justify a trial of the scheme. In consequence of these directions, your petitioner, after making some requisite arrangements in regard to the extensive commercial and other concerns in which he was at that time engaged, travelled over a great part of the kingdom, for the purpose of collecting further information on the subject, the different postmasters having previously received orders from the treasury to answer his enquiries. During your petitioner's absence, the administration was changed, but the new administration being equally desirous of encouraging and effecting the plan, sent the outline to the general post-office for inspection, and it was returned with voluminous objections from the superior officers, who asserted, that the post-office establishment had, after the fullest consideration and every possible exertion, been brought to the most perfect state of improvement, not only as to expedition and safety, but in the interior departments, and that any attempt to alter it would be ruinous to the correspondence and commerce of the country, and if any ignorant projector were suffered to interfere for such a purpose, he ought to be made responsible, as far as might be, for the consequences. Although some of these objections appeared well-founded, it was evident that others arose from prejudice and self-interest; but your petitioner was directed to answer them in detail, which he had scarcely done before the administration was again changed; and Mr. Pitt, on his return to office, received further decided objections from the post-office, which were followed up, by such a determined opposition and outcry against the plan as to create a combination amongst the inn-keepers and coach-masters on the roads, and by rendering them unwilling to convey the mails on the terms proposed, threatened to destroy the whole of the arrangements made by your petitioner preparatory to the trial: this, together with the complicated nature and construction of the posts, which his plan would totally disarrange, and which he must of course completely new model, gave full employment to his mind, and cause for serious reflection and anxiety. Your petitioner had first taken up the idea of reform as a very simple one, and easy to be accomplished, but as he was imperceptibly led on in the pursuit of this favourite object, the new and accumulated dangers and obstacles which opened upon him at every step, together

gether with the inveterate opposition he experienced from the general post office, from which he had been led to expect by government every assistance, convinced him that he had involved himself in almost inextricable difficulties; it had completely possessed his mind, and he had pursued it through different changes of administration for above two years; he had incurred great expence; the various concerns he had been engaged in had been neglected to his great loss, and he found that he had no alternative now left, but either to abandon the plan, to return to safety and dedicate his future life to the recovery and improvement of his various private concerns, or to make the sacrifice of abandoning those altogether, and adhere to his plan, and to the chance of acquiring a great fortune for himself and family by its success, as Mr. Allen had done before him by his improvements of the Posts; he submitted therefore these circumstances and his situation to Mr. Pitt, and the necessity of immediately settling the terms which were to determine his choice. To the justice of this the minister directly assented, and assured your petitioner, that if he would give in his proposals for compensation so that the promised advantages could but be secured, and the agreement be made fair and safe for the public, whatever fortune your petitioner might derive from it, there would be no hesitation on his part to close with it, and to satisfy his mind as to his future prospects. In consequence of this assurance, your petitioner informed Mr. Pitt, through the present Bishop of Lincoln, his then secretary, that he would undertake the proposed reform at his own risk and expence, on condition that he should be entitled to receive, during his life, two an half per centum on the future increased revenue of the post-office beyond the present net profits, provided his plan succeeded, but not a shilling otherwise. With this proposal your petitioner delivered in a statement of the post-office revenue, from a very early period, by which it appeared, that at the expiration of two centuries from its establishment, it had reached to 150,000*l*. per annum; and, to mark more strongly the profits he expected to derive from his plan, as well as the powers necessary to carry it into execution, he likewise gave in a narrative of Mr. Allen's transactions and agreement with government in 1720, relative to his farm of the cross posts, which were improved gradually, and at different periods, during upwards of forty-two

years,

years, till he died (after the accumulation of a very large fortune, and his having received upwards of 12,000*l*. per annum for many years, as a reward for his services, and during the whole time retained the absolute and independent control of that branch of the post office.) In reply to this offer, your petitioner was informed by Mr. Pitt, through his secretary, "That the proposal was thought fair, and would be fully complied with, provided the plan succeeded." The agreement having been thus acceded to, your petitioner proceeded to make his plan more perfect, and prepare for the trial; and Mr. Pitt, in every conversation previous to such trial, constantly expressed himself perfectly satisfied with the fairness and moderation of the terms, and the benefit to be derived to the public if the plan could but be successfully carried into execution. In the autumn of 1784, after two years of incessant labour and anxiety, the plan was tried on the western road, and succeeded beyond the promise held out by your petitioner, who had nevertheless afterwards to encounter a renewal of hostilities and impediments from the post office, which obliged him to apply for the protection of the lords of the treasury, who immediately saw the necessity of their interference, and issued a peremptory order for the purpose; but the mischief had so far been done, that a considerable delay took place, before the trials could be made upon the other roads. Mr. Pitt being of opinion that the repeated impediments and opposition experienced from the post office, rendered it absolutely requisite that your petitioner should hold some ostensible official situation, the better to enable him to forward the establishment of his plan, and prevent further obstructions, proposed that he should be appointed surveyor and comptroller-general, with a salary of 1500*l*. per annum, which should be accepted in lieu of per centage on any part of the post office revenue within 240,000*l*. being 90,000*l*. above the amount at that time; and of course the proposed salary was considerably less than the per centage would have amounted to; but your petitioner consented to this proposed modification of his original agreement, rather than start obstacles on his part, and particularly as it was intimated that, in case any accident should happen to your petitioner after effecting the plan, but before he had an opportunity of making a suitable provision for his family, there could be no doubt but that government would take

 such

such an event into consideration. In the autumn of 1785, when the plan had been carried into effect on many of the roads in the kingdom, and arrangements made for its further extension, a draft of your petitioner's intended appointment was prepared at the treasury, agreeably to the modified terms, being a grant from his Majesty, appointing your petitioner surveyor and comptroller general of the post-office during his life, with authority to suspend any of the officers and servants belonging thereto, and granting him in consideration of his good and faithful services for the advancement of the revenue, and the advantage of the commerce and manufactures of the kingdom, as well by way of reward of such services, as to encourage him to continue his exertions, for furthering the same, a clear salary of 1500*l.*, together with 2*l.* 10*s.* per cent. on the increased post revenue, according to the modification before stated. When a draft of this proposed appointment was laid before the then attorney-general, he was of opinion that an act of parliament would be requisite to enable the minister to carry the agreement made with your petitioner into execution, as the post office act of the 9th of Queen Anne merely authorizes appointments under the postmaster.general, and in consequence of this obstacle the intended grant was suspended till the requisite act could be obtained. During this delay, your petitioner not having sufficient authority vested in him to forward and protect his plan, it got into great irregularity, owing to the neglect of the contractors, who had been induced to believe that he was unsupported by government, and that as the plan had to encounter fresh objections and memorials from the post-office, it must necessarily be given up; therefore being disheartened by these apprehensions, as well as by the severity of the winter, and influenced by the advice and threats of those who were adverse to the plan, a combination was entered into, and bonds under heavy penalties executed among many of the coachmasters, as well as postmasters, not only to decline any mail-coach contracts, but to oppose them wherever attempted to be established. In this situation your petitioner found that unless he immediately obtained some official powers, the plan must sink, and all his labour, anxiety, and expence be lost; and therefore, after representing his apprehensions to the minister, and consenting to postpone the completion of his agreement, till the requisite arrange-

ments

ments could be made respecting it, a limited appointment was, in August 1786, directed to be granted him by the postmaster-general, under which he might be enabled to forward his plan, but with an assurance from Mr. Pitt, that the full benefit of his agreement should be ultimately secured to him, and he at the same time, obtained a warrant for a part of his expences, not having till then received a shilling either for himself or his numerous agents, although more than four years had elapsed since the commencement of the business, as he was determined to adhere strictly to his proposal, that the plan should be proved efficient and beneficial to the public, before he would accept any remuneration whatever. Having obtained this limited appointment, your petitioner, without loss of time, went into Scotland in order to arrange the posts of that kingdom, and afterwards to Paris for the purpose of establishing a daily packet and post connection between France and this country, so that he was not able to return to London till October 1787. Early in 1788, he was requested to go to Ireland, in order to settle regulations respecting the establishment of mail-coaches in that kingdom, and likewise for the forming better communications by packets between the northern and southern parts of that country, and the English ports. Although your petitioner had during these intervals, in his frequent communications with Mr. Pitt, the most positive assurances, that after effecting these further arrangements the agreement made with him should be no longer delayed, but settled to his entire satisfaction, yet, on his return, he had the mortification to encounter further impediments from the post office; and he therefore most earnestly and warmly pressed the minister to carry his agreement with him into immediate execution, and by granting him the promised powers put an end to these hostile attacks from the office, so injurious both to himself and the public. Mr. Pitt acknowledged the necessity as well as justice of this demand, and his anxious wish to comply with it; and at last observed, "That it would be a great satisfaction to his mind, and more fully authorize and justify the agreement with the public, if sanctioned by the report of the commissioners of enquiry, after their full investigation into the whole of the proceedings." Unexpected and distressing as this further procrastination was, the proposal appeared so candid and proper that your petitioner could not but consent to it. In 1788 the commissioners

commissioners of enquiry made their report as to the post-office; and stated, with respect to your petitioner, That he had performed his agreement with government far beyond his promise, not only as to expedition and safety, but at 20,000l. per annum less than was proposed; and that he had accomplished his object in despite of numerous difficulties, and a most powerful opposition, and every obstruction that could be thrown in his way by the officers of the general post-office; and therefore the commissioners declared your petitioner justly entitled to his specified compensation, being a very small part of that increased revenue which his integrity, activity, and zeal, had created, exclusive of the convenience and numerous collateral advantages which the country at large, and more particularly the commercial part of it, derived from his exertions." After this examination and decision by the commissioners, your petitioner, at the end of December 1788, wrote to the minister, requesting him to fulfil his original agreement, stating at the same time that he had various other plans which he conceived of the greatest consequence to the correspondence of the kingdom, and particularly of the metropolis and its neighbourhood, which waited this final adjustment to enable him to carry into execution. Further delays now arose from the peculiar and unfortunate circumstances which occurred at that time, and the consequent embarrassments of government, and at last from the difficulties your petitioner experienced in his pecuniary concerns; wearied out with these continued mortifying and vexatious delays, to which he saw no probable end, and against which, or to compel the performance of his agreement, he had no legal remedy, he, at the earnest desire of the minister, consented to continue farther to act with the limited and uncertain powers he hitherto had done, but under the strongest assurances on the part of Mr. Pitt, "That there should be no future interference with his regulations from the general post-office, and that he should feel himself equally protected and advantaged in all respects as if possessed of the intended patent grant of 1785, and that he might be assured his agreement was equally valid as if sanctioned by an act of parliament." Soon after a new appointment was sent to him, and he was paid, after seven years delay, the whole arrears of the salary and per centage to that time, and agreeably to his modified agreement of 1785, but he was allowed

 nothing

nothing for his time previous to the commencement of the plan in August 1784, or for his subsequent great expences in England, or even in France or Ireland, nor was there any mentioned reversion of the situation for any of his family, as he was led to expect in the modification of his agreement in 1785, but he was told he must look to an ample recompence for all this in the great and increasing advantages of his per centage. However convenient your petitioner found this sum for the settlement of his pecuniary difficulties, in consequence of his attention to this business, and whatever pleasure he felt at the arrears, according to his modified agreement, being thus honorably discharged, yet he never failed expressing his dissatisfaction at the patent appointment of 1785 not being yet granted to him, or his original agreement not being fulfilled, and his fears and apprehensions of the consequences both to the public, his plan, and to himself. For some little time after this, however, your petitioner proceeded uninterruptedly, and to his satisfaction; but it being soon known at the post-office that he had no legal authority independent of the postmaster-general, the old opposition and intrigues revived, and were pursued for a considerable time, or at intervals, in a manner that might naturally be expected where prejudice was so deeply rooted, and power in the exercise of persons so completely at variance with each other, and whose ideas of business, and the mode of conducting it, were so different. The former unwarrantable conduct to defeat the plan on one side, and unavoidably so to protect it on the other, were again resorted to; on every occasion which your petitioner conceived of importance to his plan, or the revenue, he acted in the best manner he could for its advantage, and to alarm and deter the office from interfering in its conduct; and, confiding in the spirit of his original agreement, he uniformly denied at such times the power of the postmaster-general over him, asserted his agreement, and appealed to the minister, which generally produced a temporary cessation to this harassing and injurious interference with his regulations, and he was frequently assured some line or other should be drawn, or some effectual measure adopted, to put an end to it. At last the postmaster-general suspended your petitioner, in March 1792, for disobedience of their orders, under this nominal appointment, which he had been compelled to act with to the best of his judgment,

ment, and independent of the postmaster-general; for, had he not done so on every occasion he thought necessary, and according to the powers described in the patent appointment drawn up in 1785, and assured to him by the minister, he never could have carried his plan into execution, or the public been in the enjoyment of its advantages. After various remonstrances and answers between the postmaster-general and himself at the board of treasury, and with which, on the part of your petitioner, the minister expressed himself satisfied, he was compelled to leave the conduct of his plan to the office, as was originally intended, after he should have perfectly established it, but, of course, considered that he was not to be prejudiced in the profits arising from his agreement; and he intimated to the minister, that he still was ready to proceed to further great and extensive improvements, of material importance to the public convenience, and the revenue, if granted the requisite powers promised him. Some time after this declaration, a warrant was sent to the post-office for the payment of your petitioner's arrears (according to his modified agreement in 1785) to April 1793; and the board of treasury gave him notice that they had settled an allowance of 3000l. per year on him for his life, in compensation for his services. To this your petitioner declared, as he invariably had done, that he should consider himself extremely ill-treated if he was paid in any degree short of his actual agreement; that Mr. Pitt had a right, if he thought proper, and as might suit his political convenience, to dispense with his services, but he could not in justice dispense with the engagements he had entered into with your petitioner. In December 1794, after the usual period had elapsed of making up the annual accounts of the general post-office, your petitioner sent a memorial to the lords commissioners of the treasury, stating his agreement, and requiring the post-office accounts to April, 1794, and the payment of the balance of salary and per centage due to him beyond the sum he had been paid (of 3000*l.*) In August 1795, after various applications and waiting eight months, he received an answer, stating, That their lordships were of opinion that the sum of 3000l. per annum for his life was a just and full compensation for the services he had rendered, and that they did not think themselves justified on the part of the public to make any addition to that allowance. In January 1796 (being shortly

after the next meeting of parliament) your petitioner having advised with his counsel on the further steps necessary to be taken in this harassing business, presented to the board of treasury a remonstrance to their answer, and proposed, that if their lordships conceived themselves unable to perform the agreement made with him, an application might be made to parliament on the subject, when the agreement, as well as his merits and his conduct, might be fully investigated. Although an answer was promised in time for your petitioner to make such appeal, he did not receive it till the dissolution of parliament was determined upon, and he had to wait the meeting of a new one in the following year, when a committee of the house was appointed "To consider of the agreements made with your petitioner for the reform and improvement of the post-office and its revenue, and to enquire into the causes of his suspension, and report to the house the evidence received." In May 1797, the committee after being occupied above five weeks on the subject, reported to the house the evidence received, which was ordered to be printed, and fully proved the agreement made with your petitioner as before stated; and that he had more than performed it on his part, and procured great and lasting convenience and benefit to the public and its revenue; and that, although the postmaster-general, who suspended him, thought themselves justified in doing so, in consequence of the official controversies which had arisen respecting the independent powers constantly required by your petitioner for the arrangements and improvements of his plan, yet both those noble lords expressly acknowledged before the committee, "That they had never in the smallest degree any reason to entertain a doubt of the personal integrity of your petitioner." In May 1797, on a motion in the house to take the evidence reported into consideration, no redress could be obtained, as Mr. Pitt, the then chancellor of the exchequer, did not think proper to favour the application, although he had in his evidence before the committee, fully established the agreement made by him with your petitioner; and that his appointment with two and a half per cent. on the increased revenue, was to have been for life, and was varied in consequence only of legal objections arising from the post-office act; your petitioner was therefore advised to desist from further prosecution of his claim, in expectation that some future

ture period might afford a more seasonable opportunity for obtaining a decision on the real merits and justice of his case, uninfluenced by any prejudice which even those of the most honourable and enlightened minds may be liable to, if originally a party to a transaction. Your petitioner presumes to state to this honourable house, that the system of reform on which his plan was founded, and the regulations for carrying it into complete execution, were originally so perfectly arranged and fixed by him (so far as he was suffered to proceed) that the country has now enjoyed its benefit uninterruptedly for above twenty years, and that such reform has been effected not only for 24,000l. per annum, less than he originally proposed, but that (exclusive of the saving of many thousands yearly to government, formerly expended in expresses and prosecutions for mail-robberies) the mails are conveyed at upwards of 20,000l. per annum less on his improved plan of expedition, safety, and regularity, than the rate paid during the continuance of the old, disgraceful, and injurious system; so that the actual saving effected by your petitioner, in the charge of conveyance only, far exceeds the whole amount of the compensation he claims. That with respect to the agreement on which your petitioner founds his claim, he conceives no instance can be produced from the earliest records of the treasury, of so advantageous a bargain made for the public, on the part of any minister, or of one more honestly or completely executed on the part of the individual contracted with. Your petitioner, therefore, humbly prays this honourable house to take the premises into consideration; and that he may have such relief therein as to this honourable house shall seem meet,

And your petitioner shall ever pray, &c.

We cannot help feeling the strong claims this meritorious individual has upon his country, for the fulfilment of his agreement.

Precluded by the general course of the laws from a decision by a jury, which, in mercantile affairs would have compelled its performance, that circumstance alone should render his engagement more sacred; the

country alone, should not be surely above its laws. He is now thrown upon the justice and liberality of the house of commons, after having challenged the strictest investigation into his conduct from which he came forth not only pure, but with the most honourable testimony to his talents and integrity; and we entertain a confident hope that parliament, who have so rigidly and meritoriously followed up the recommendation of commissioners of enquiry and finance in the painful part of their duty, of reporting the misconduct of individuals, and to a sense of public justice have not scrupled to sacrifice their private feelings, will with more satisfaction do an act of justice to an individual of whom the commissioners of enquiry have made such honorable mention, and who reported, "that he had *more than fulfilled his* agreement, and that he is fully entitled to the strict performance of it on the part of his country."

Nothing can be more unjust than that in proportion to the benefit derived from his agreement should be the inducement to break it; and a celebrated statesman (Mr. Burke) speaking of the faith to be observed with respect to rewards due for public services, says, "What the law respects, should be sacred. If the barriers of the law should be broken down upon ideas of convenience, even of public convenience, we shall have no longer any thing certain among us. If the discretion of power is once let loose upon property, we can be at no loss to determine what discretion it is that will prevail at last---and no man knows, when he cuts off the incitements to a virtuous ambition, and the just rewards of public services, what infinite mischief he may do his country through all generations. Such

saying

saving to the public may prove the worst mode of robbing it."

It is, however, devoutly to be wished that justice may be done to this individual, and the national faith preserved.

In all the trying situations this harassing business has placed Mr. Palmer, none has ever noticed a change of character or conduct in him; nor has he retired disgusted from public life.

His rich relative at Bath, Mr. Walter Long, died a few months since; it was generally imagined from the great affection Mr. Long bore him, beyond that towards any of his other relations, and from his constant declaration in his favor, that he would have succeeded to his great estates, but he bequeathed him a legacy of a thousand pounds only, and the estates and great wealth were left to a most respectable family of the same name (the M. P. for Wilts) although not so nearly related as himself, and he had constantly observed, that if Mr. Palmer's application to parliament should have failed, he should find from his friendship no great cause to regret the loss to his family. But that is passed, and it will be a prouder conduct to owe his wealth to his own exertions than the will of any other, to revive the decayed fortunes, and to preserve the ancient name of his family, instead of changing it for another, again to represent that city, which, above four hundred years since, his ancestor represented, and for which he is now seated the fourth time, by the affection and regard of his old and most valued friends.

We cannot conclude this very important memoir better than with the animated sentiments of the English

lish gleaner, (Mr. Pratt) always the zealous advocate of worth and talent in every form and on every occasion.

"Among the many aids which have been given to commerce and public convenience, during the present century, there is not one which *deserves better of the nation*, and has a more just title to a place in this work,* than the *reformation* which has been made in the administration of the post-office, by Mr. Palmer. Nor have we heard any circumstance more generally lamented than that of government having declined the *performance of their own agreement with him*, not only as to his specified emoluments, but in giving him those independant powers they had contracted to do, that he might extend and improve those plans which, as far as he had been suffered to carry them into execution, have proved so highly advantageous to the commerce and revenue of the country.

"Without dwindling this at all into a *post-office or political question*, I must repeat what I publicly asserted in the first instance that I think, and the country continues to think with me, that the projector of so extensive a good to *every branch of the revenue*, and every member of the community, would have an indispensable, or vital claim upon the gratitude of the state, and of every individual that composes it; to the most ample remuneration, had there been no specific agreement whatever on the part of government or the people.

"I cannot yet close this great national object which is amongst the very first to attract and to astonish a foreigner. The perfection of that object is yet to be

* Gleanings in England.

mentioned.

mentioned. I mean the invention of mail-coaches, which increases the accommodation and speed of every thing most valuable and most precious to the business and pleasure of this illustrious island, almost to a winged celerity. In the days of our ancestors---nay, within the memory of many persons still living, one relative who should have summoned another to his bed of sickness might have died even a lingering death, without the friend most relied on to close his eye, or to receive of that eye, its last love beam; the heart condemned by some stern necessity to throb alone, far distant from its associate might, indeed, have broken, long before the balmy comfort of affection could have been supplied, even by those who think with the poet, that "A friend is worth all hazards we can run," and a thousand advantages in public, with ten thousand endearments in private life, are facilitated and connected with this interesting and noble invention. It is, in fine, the crown both of our commerce and correspondence---and were temples now built, or monuments erected to those who by public love have expanded public good, while the benefactors are yet living, I know not of any more deserving a mark of his country's gratitude than he who conceived, and carried into practice, this great national idea.

It deserves the emulation and adoption of every other clime that has but a relish for business, or of social love; and, next to the project of any post at all, and the invention of writing, to confide thereto the secrets of our hearts and our most important worldly concerns; the establishment of a mail-coach in England should be honorably recorded!

THE

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

CAPT. LORD VISC. COCHRANE,

Member of Parliament for the City of Westminster.

> " His nature is too noble for the world !
> He would not flatter Neptune for his trident,
> Or Jove for his power to thunder ! His heart's his mouth;
> What his breast forges that his tongue must vent ;
> And being angry, doth forget that ever
> He heard the name of death !"
>
> SHAKESPEARE.

IT has been justly observed, by a celebrated moral writer, that he " who seeks after fame, wealth, and power, in the road of truth and virtue, and if he cannot find them in that road, generously despises them ; who in his private character and connexions gives the fullest scope to the tender and manly passions ; and in his public character serves his country and mankind in the most upright and disinterested manner ; that man is the worthiest character on this stage of life."

At a period like the present, when venality and corruption are springing up in every corner ; when the sacred name of patriot is prostituted to the vilest of purposes, the man who can step forward, possessed of

> " Staid worth, a courage uncontroll'd,
> And honour pure as native gold,"

is

is an invaluable treasure to his country. Such a treasure do we consider the gallant young nobleman, whose "deeds in arms" we are about to notice.

To those who happen to be unacquainted with his honourable lineage, it is requisite to state, that Lord Cochrane is the heir apparent to the earldom of Dundonald. His first ennobled ancestor was William Cochrane; who, in the year 1667, was created Baron Cochrane; and, in 1669, Earl of Dundonald. From his eldest son descended seven Earls of Dundonald, when that branch of the family became extinct, and the title fell to Thomas, a descendant of John, the younger son of the first earl. By his second wife, a daughter of Archibald Stewart, Esq. he had two sons, of whom the eldest was Archibald, the present Earl of Dundonald. This nobleman has been twice married. His first lady, whom he married in 1774, was Anne, daughter of Captain Gilchrist, who brought him five sons. She died in 1784, and her eldest surviving son is the subject of this memoir. In the course of three or four years after her death, the earl married a widow lady of the name of Mayne, who, we believe, is still living.

Lord Cochrane, whose "gallant bearing" has so often been the theme of conversation and of praise, was, at an early period of life, destined for that profession in which he has acquired so much honour. In the routine of naval service, it falls to the lot of but few, while inhaling the fumes of the orlop, particularly to distinguish themselves. His lordship, however, passed through the respective gradations of rank, with credit to himself, and satisfaction to his commanders;

 and

and on the 8th of August, 1801, he was promoted to the rank of post-captain.

Previously to that period, in the winter of 1800, and the spring of 1801, he commanded the Speedy sloop, in the Mediterranean, under the orders of Lord Keith, where his exertions were eminently successful, in making a number of captures. Amongst others was that of the French brig La Caroline, laden with ordnance stores, in February 1801, and some Spanish xebecs, &c. in the month of April following. In May, after a chace and very warm action, he captured a Spanish xebec frigate, of nearly three times the force of the Speedy. The difference in size, weight of metal, and number of men, in the contending ships, is particularly deserving of notice. The Spaniard mounted thirty-two guns; of which twenty-two were long 12-pounders, eight nines, and two heavy carronades; and she was manned with 274 officers, seamen, boys, supernumeraries, and 45 marines, making a total of 319: whilst Lord Cochrane's ship, the Speedy, mounted only fourteen 4-pounders; and, including officers, men, and boys, had only 54 on board. The frigate was carried by boarding. "The great disparity of force," says his lordship in his official letter, "rendered it necessary to adopt some measure that might prove decisive; I resolved to board, and, with Lieutenant Parker, the honourable Mr. Cochrane, the boatswain, and crew, boarded; when, by the impetuosity of the attack, we forced them instantly to strike their colours." Lieutenant Parker was severely wounded, and one seaman was lost in the act of boarding. The total loss of the Speedy, in this spirited conflict, was three killed and

eight

eight wounded; that of the Spaniard, fourteen killed and forty-one wounded.

The intelligence of this engagement must have been highly grateful to his noble parent. He might proudly say with the bard of "elden time"—"my son, though alone, is brave; Oscar is like a beam of the sky!" The son, too, generously exulting in his prowess, might exclaim:—"Come, ye dim ghosts of my fathers, and behold my deeds in war: I may fall; but I will be renowned! Where the danger threatens I rejoice in the storm!"

This, we believe, was the last action of importance in which Lord Cochrane was engaged, prior to his being made a post-captain; an honour which, as we have already stated, took place in the month of August following.

The preliminaries of peace were signed shortly after; a circumstance which necessarily threw him into a state of inactivity. Fortunately for his lordship, and, we are willing to believe, for the country, the peace, or rather the hollow armed truce of Amiens, was but of short duration: Britain was again called upon to check the pride, retort the menaces, and chastise the insolence of the regicidal subjugator of Europe; and Lord Cochrane, as one of the most spirited young officers of the day---one whose generous bosom beat high with valorous expectation---was again invested with a command.

It will not be within our limits to notice the whole of the numerous achievements of his lordship, since that period; but, for the satisfaction of the reader, we shall notice a few of the most important; premising that, from the commencement of his naval career, he

might have adopted the following lines of our admired poet, Spencer, for his motto:—

> "All my delight on deedes of armes is sett,
> To hunt out perilles and adventures hard,
> By sea, by land, wherese they may be mett,
> Onely for honour and for high regard,
> Without respect of richesse or reward."

In the acquirement of honour, and "high regard," his lordship has been amply successful; nor has fortune been niggardly in rewarding him with her pecuniary favours.

If we are correctly informed, the first ship which Lord Cochrane commanded, after the renewal of war, was the Pallas, in which, in 1804, he proceeded to the Newfoundland station, where he remained, however, but a short time.

Amongst a number of prizes, in the capture of which he was concerned, at the commencement of hostilities against Spain, was that of Il Fortuna. The almost unexampled conduct of Lord Cochrane, and of his officers and ships company, on this occasion, to the Spanish captain and supercargo, well deserves to be recorded, for the lasting honour and credit of our national character. Il Fortuna was on her passage to Corunna, from the Rio de la Plata, richly laden with specie, to the amount, as was reported, of 150,000*l.* besides a quantity of valuable merchandise, worth about a similar sum. When the Spanish captain came on board the Pallas, accompanied by the supercargo, who was a merchant and passenger from New Spain, they appeared much dejected, as their private property on board, amounting to 30,000 dollars each,

in

in specie and goods was lost. The papers and manifest of the cargo of Il Fortuna being examined, the Spaniards told Lord Cochrane that they had families in Old Spain, and had now lost all their property, their hard earnings by commerce, in the burning clime of South America, the savings of nearly twenty years, with which they had been returning to their country, intending there to enjoy the fruits of their industry. The captain, in particular, stated that he had lost, in the year 1779, a similar fortune, in being taken by a British cruizer, and had been forced to begin the world again. Both of the Spaniards appeared to feel their forlorn situation so much, that Lord Cochrane felt for them; and with that generosity which is ever attendant on true bravery, consulted his officers as to the propriety of returning to each of those two gentlemen 5000 dollars of their property, in specie, which was immediately agreed to be done, according to their respective proportions. On this his lordship ordered the boatswain to pipe all hands on deck; and addressing the seamen and marines with much feeling, in a plain seaman-like way, stated the above facts. It is scarcely necessary to add, that the appeal was successful. The gallant fellows, with one voice, exclaimed, "Aye, aye, my lord, with all our hearts!" and gave three cheers. The Spaniards were overcome with this noble instance of the generosity of British seamen, and actually shed tears of joy, at the prospect of being once more placed in a state of independence.

Continuing on the home station, Lord Cochrane, in the early part of April, 1806, was employed in the execution of a very hazardous enterprize in the Garonne; a river the most difficult, perhaps, in its navi-

 gation,

gation, of any on the French coast. The success of the attempt was complete, as will be best seen by the following particulars, extracted from his lordship's official dispatch:—"Having received information, which proves correct, of the situation of the corvettes in the river Bourdeaux; a little after dark, on the evening of the 5th, (April) the Pallas was anchored close to the shoal of Cordovan; and it gives me satisfaction to relate, that about three o'clock, the national corvette Le Tapageuse, of fourteen long twelve-pounders, and ninety-five men, which had the guard, was boarded, carried, and cut out, about twenty miles above the shoals, within two heavy batteries, in spite of all resistance, by the first lieutenant, Mr. Haswell, Mr. Sutherland the master, Messrs. Perkins, Crawford, and Thompson, together with the quarter-masters, and such of the seamen, the serjeant and marines, as were fortunate enough to find place in the boats. The tide of flood ran strong at daylight; Le Tapageuse made sail; a general alarm was given; a sloop of war followed, and an action continued, often within hail, till, by the same bravery by which the Tapageuse was carried, the sloop of war, which had been before saved by the rapidity of the current alone, after about an hour's firing, was compelled to sheer off, having suffered as much in the hull as the Tapageuse in the rigging. It is necessary to add, that the same morning, when at anchor, waiting for the boats (which, by the bye, did not return till this morning) three ships were observed bearing down towards the Pallas, making many signals: they were soon perceived to be enemies. In a few minutes the anchor was weighed, and, with the remainder of the officers

officers and crew, we chased, drove on shore, and wrecked, one national twenty-four gun-ship, one of twenty-two guns, and La Malicieuse, a beautiul corvette of eighteen guns: their masts went by the board, and they were involved in a sheet of spray."

> "When greatness is to goodness near allied,
> The man that has them, is a man indeed!"

Such a man has Lord Cochrane, by all his actions, proved himself. "Nothing," says Vice-admiral Thornborough, "can evince more clearly the high state of discipline of the crew of the Pallas, than the humanity shewn by them to the enemy in the conflict." Even Lord St. Vincent, whose praise is seldom redundant, unless of his immediate *protegés*, in his envelope of Lord Cochrane's letter, thought proper to say:—"The gallant and successful exertions of the Pallas, therein detailed, reflect very high honour on her captain, officers, and crew, *and call for my warmest admiration!*"

Exclusively of the service which we have just noticed, between the 26th of March and the 5th of April, Lord Cochrane took two French chasse marées, and one brig; and destroyed a chasse marée, and a brig.

In the month of May following, the French trade having for some time been kept much in port, owing, in a great measure, to their knowledge of the exact situation of our cruizers, constantly announced at the signal posts, it appeared to Lord Cochrane to be of some importance, as there was nothing better in view, to endeavour to stop that practice. With his marines, and boats' crews, he accordingly demolished the two posts at la Pointe de la Roche; that at Caliola; and

two in l'Ance de Repos. One of the last-mentioned was defended by upwards of a hundred militia. All the flags were brought off, and the houses which had been built by government, were burned to the ground. A successful attempt was also made upon the battery at Point d'Equilon, which was carried at once, and laid in ruins, the guns spiked, the carriages burnt, the barrack and magazine blown up, and all the shells thrown into the sea. The signal post of l'Equilon, together with the house, shared the fate of the gun-carriages; but the convoy, which would have been a desirable capture, got into a river beyond the reach of the gallant assailants.

A few days after, Lord Cochrane was engaged in action with a force so strikingly superior to his own, that it is almost miraculous how he escaped. He had borne down close to l'Isle d'Aix; and, reconnoitring the French squadron, he discovered a well-known frigate, which had been a source of great annoyance to the English, and three brigs, all getting under sail. His lordship---for the vast disparity of force could not deter him from the effort---now formed high expectations, that the long-wished-for opportunity of vengeance was arrived. "The Pallas," says he, "remained under top-sails by the wind to await them; at half-past eleven (in the morning) a smart point-blank firing commenced on both sides, which was severely felt by the enemy. The main-top-sail-yard of one of the brigs was cut through, and the frigate lost her after-sails. The batteries on l'Isle d'Aix opened on the Pallas, and a cannonade continued, interrupted on our part only by the necessity we were under to make various tacks to avoid the shoals, till one o'clock, when our en-

deavors

deavors to gain the wind of the enemy and get between him and the batteries, proved successful; an effectual distance was now chosen—a few broadsides were poured in—the enemy's fire slackened;---I ordered ours to cease, and directed Mr. Sutherland, the master, to run the frigate on board, with intention effectually to prevent her retreat, by boarding.—The enemy's side thrust our guns back into the ports, the whole were then discharged, the effect and crash was dreadful; their decks were deserted; three pistol shots were the unequal return. With confidence I say, that the frigate was lost to France, had not the unequal collision tore away our fore-top-mast, jib-boom, fore and main-top-sail-yards, sprit-sail-yard, bumpkin, cat-head, chain-plates, fore-rigging, fore-sail, and bower-anchor, with which last I intended to hook on, but all proved insufficient. She was yet lost to France, had not the French admiral, seeing his frigate's fore-yard gone, her rigging ruined, and the danger she was in, sent two others to her assistance.----The Pallas being a wreck, we came out with what little sail could be set, and his Majesty's sloop, the Kingfisher, afterwards took us in tow."---In this severe, and unequal conflict, the Pallas had only one man killed, and five wounded.

From the disabled state of the Pallas, Lord Cochrane, we believe, did not go to sea again in that ship; but, shortly after, we find him commanding the Imperieux. In the latter, between the 13th of December, 1806, and the 7th of January, 1807, he took and destroyed no fewer than fifteen ships of the enemy.

About the time last-mentioned, the boats of the Imperieux, under the direction of Lieutenant Mapleton, made

made a successful attack upon Fort Roquette, at the entrance of the Bason of Arcasson. This fort, which was intended for the defence of the bason, and of such vessels as might be lying in it, was completely laid in ruins; a large quantity of military stores was destroyed; four thirty-six-pounders, two field-pieces, and a thirteen inch mortar were spiked; and all the platoons and carriages were burnt. Through the admirable manner in which this enterprize was conducted, it was accomplished without any loss whatever on the part of the assailants.

From the period which we have just noticed, we are not aware that Lord Cochrane has had any opportunity of specifically distinguishing himself in the professional service of his country. Few instances, however, can be adduced, in the annals of the British navy, in which so short a career has been attended by such uniform and brilliant success. The unusual number of captures which his lordship has made, has, of course, put him into the possession of considerable sums of prize-money; though we are not of opinion that his pecuniary acquisitions are equal to the reports which have been bruited on the subject.

Hitherto we have considered Lord Cochrane only in the character of a hero; we have now to contemplate him in one equally, if not more, interesting—— that of a patriot.

> "Sublimest virtue is desire of fame,
> When justice gives the laurel:—
> The unextinguishable spark which fires
> The souls of patriots!"

At the general election, in the autumn of 1806, Lord Cochrane was returned to parliament, as one of the representatives

presentatives of the Borough of Honiton, in Devonshire. The brief existence of the last parliament deprived him of the opportunity of paying much attention to his senatorial duties; as, during almost the whole of its sitting, he was professionally employed in the service of his country. On one occasion, however---the question which arose out of the Catholic discussions---he made an honourable, a loyal, and a patriotic display of his political principles, by voting in favour of his sovereign. With Goldsmith, he justly considered, that, "if there be any thing sacred amongst men, it must be the annointed sovereign of his people," and that, "every diminution of his power in war, or in peace, is an infringement upon the real liberties of the subject."

The conduct of the ex-ministers---those who, like dogs, had scratched, howled, and barked, till they got in---having rendered a dissolution of parliament necessary, Lord Cochrane embraced the moment to offer himself as a candidate for the City of Westminster. Accordingly, on the day of nomination, the preliminary forms having been gone through, his lordship, with the characteristic agility of a sailor, leaped out from the hustings, and, standing upon the narrow wooden bar, which separates the constables from the populace, addressed them at considerable length, and with much animation. He observed, that if the electors should not like him when they had heard him, they might reject him at once. He stood upon the footing of perfect independence, unconnected with any person whatever. According to his definition of independence, no man could be independent who was brought forward by any party, to vote for or against

any

any particular set of men, without reference to measures; he called heaven to witness that he was supported by no party, by no minister whatever; and he pledged himself to hunt down plunder, peculation, sinecure placemen, and pensioners, wherever he could find them. He was the friend of his country and its constitution. He was not entitled to speak of his services himself, but he meant to pledge his past conduct and character as a security for the performances of his promises.---The electors, his lordship observed, had been told, that a naval man was an improper person for a member of parliament; but who, he would ask, was so capable, as a naval man, of exposing the abuses which prevailed in the navy, and of promoting their reform? He knew that plunder and terrible abuses prevailed; and it was not in the power of members of parliament, who had left the service many years, to know them practically as he did. He was acquainted, from history, with what the constitution was, in times of purity, and he should use his endeavours to restore it to that enviable state.---As to the royal prerogative, he hoped that, should not the king's present ministers act upon a system of economy, and opposition to corruption, his Majesty would once more have the spirit to dismiss his servants with the disgrace which they would deserve.

"And you—ye pilots of the realm!
Trim well your sails and mind the helm,
  Your charge—a proud first rate is;
But should you wreck the nation's hope,
O! may her anchor lend a rope,
  Quod vos possideatis."

His

His lordship, in the course of his speech, made a number of very "palpable hits" at one of the rival candidates, which were the source of much amusement to the populace; and his firm, manly, and independent sentiments gave the most general satisfaction. The number of votes which he polled must have been adequate to his most sanguine expectations; and it was not until the fifth day of the election, that Sir Francis Burdett, the pupil of Horne Tooke, the friend of O'Connor, and of the convicted traitor Despard, the rabble's idol, took the lead on the poll.

Throughout the whole of the election, from the first moment to the last, Lord Cochrane, nobly persisted in his independence, proudly disdaining all idea of coalition with any one of the candidates. His speeches were generally gratifying to the best feelings of the public, and contained many forcible truths with respect to the abuses of the navy, under certain administrations. If, in some few instances, his youthful ardour, and noble high-mindedness, induced him to pass somewhat too severe a censure upon particular men and measures, he was always ready and willing to make the *amende honorable*. His lordship happened to know more of the abuses in the *civil* department of the navy, than most of his auditors; a circumstance which sometimes occasioned his animadversions to be thought harshly of, when they were no more than the simple dictates of truth and justice. The British public, to their credit, are unwilling to believe even truth, when it happens to detract from the merit, or to expose the crimes of great men; but, unfortunately for the country, there are such damning proofs of criminality in existence, relating to certain men, who were formerly in

power

power, as must make the virtuous shudder. Had we not thought it possible, that the attempt might be deemed an affront, we could have pointed out to his lordship a variety of instances of misconduct in the civil arrangements of the navy, as glaringly atrocious as any which he adduced, and founded on incontrovertible truth.

At one period of the election, a low partizan of Paull's, presuming on the privileges which such a time affords, took the liberty of insulting Lord Cochrane upon the hustings, by terming him a political impostor. Not contented, however, with assailing his lordship's public character, he attacked him in the bosom of his family, by impudently interrogating him, whether, whilst he had been profusely squandering his money to secure his former election at Honiton, his noble father, who had expended a fortune on his education, had not been pining in penury, in a two pair of stairs back room in the Strand?---We should not have condescended to notice this circumstance, had it not been for its extreme brutality, and that it affords us an opportunity of delineating the filial virtue of Lord Cochrane. His Lordship, in standing forward to repel so foul an insinuation, was deeply agitated, and even shed tears upon the occasion. They were manly drops, noble testimonies of honorable feeling! He justly observed, that such questions were the questions of a villain---of an assassin. He stated---what the writer of this article knows to be a fact---that his father had indeed deteriorated his fortune, in encouraging the manufactures of his country, and in making chemical and agricultural experiments for the public service; but, to his honour, he had never received either pension, provision

provision, fee, or reward, out of the public money. So far, too, from his father having been pining in want, whilst he was squandering money to secure his election at Honiton, he had, from his earliest professional success, even when he had only his post-captain's pay, spared him every shilling in his power; and, whilst he had a shilling himself, his parent should not want one. A provision had been made for him, and his father then did him the honour to reside with him in Harley Street.

As sons, we cannot but admire and emulate the feelings of Lord Cochrane;---as fathers, we could envy the Earl of Dundonald the possession of such a son.

It is a circumstance not undeserving of notice, that, on the day following, that political Proteus, Mr. Sheridan, with that insidiousness by which he is so strikingly characterized, affected to sympathise with his lordship, on the personal attack which we have noticed. His conduct towards Lord Cochrane, during the whole of the election, was meanly hypocritical; it was conduct worthy only of the man, so well pourtrayed in the poem of "*All the Talents*," as

"A mighty trifler, and a wise buffoon.
With too much wit to have ev'n common sense;
With too much spirit ev'n to spare expence.
To tradesmen, jockey, porter, Jack, and Jill,
He pays his court—but never pays his bill.
Elate with fame, or low in folly sunk,
Divinely eloquent, or beastly drunk;
A splendid wreck of talents misapplied,
By sloth he loses what he gains by pride.
Him mean, great, silly, wise, alike we call;
The pride, the shame, the boast, the *scorn*, of all!"

As we have already mentioned, Sir Francis Burdett took the lead on the fifth day of the poll; and, owing to a very culpable negligence in a certain quarter, he succeeded in being returned as the first upon the list. Thus the friend and associate of O'Connor and Despard headed the man who has fought against O'Connor's master. The man who had said that no one was justified in lending an arm in defence of his country, was preferred to the man who had repeatedly proved, in battle, his attachment to that country, and to its venerated sovereign!

It is, however, particularly deserving of notice, that, so justly indignant has the nation felt at the conduct of the late ministers, with respect to the Catholic business, that not a single member of the old cabinet has been returned to his former seat. This is a decisive proof, that the royal appeal to the sense of the nation is of more importance than has generally been thought; and that the mass of the public adhere, with unfeigned loyalty, to their sovereign, and to the time-honoured constitution of Britain.

This fact must excite the utmost chagrin in the bosoms of the late ministers, and in none more than in that of a certain noble lord, whose irritability of disposition ill fits him to bear political disappointments.

> "G* * * , like a frog, while out of office, croak'd;
> An ape in place, he copied, not revok'd.
> Extremes he seeks, and scorns his native mean;
> Not firm, but stubborn; sullen, not serene;
> Means to be proud, but only pompous proves,
> And sometimes stuns our reason, never moves."

"If,"

"If," says the author of "*All the Talents*," "his name shall survive the injuries his country has suffered from him, he will be remembered as one of those unhappy beings, who, during the long and dreadful struggle for all that Englishmen held most dear upon earth, stood aloof with a small, but desperate band, watching the favourable moment for incursion, and involving us in a predatory war at home, while the most terrible of enemies was assailing us from abroad." ---His lordship, in all probability, will revert to his ancient practices;. for

" —— ———— **** never stood
The *candid* champion of his country's good.
When perils urged all bosoms truly great,
To turn from faction, and to save the state,
Still he kept hissing with a viper's spite,
And spit forth slaver where he failed to bite;
Nursed us with curds of patriotic spleen,
And put a drag upon the slow machine."

Towards the close of the election, Mr. Sheridan made a very strenuous canvass; and, on the last day but one, his son, who can spout Joe Miller as fluently as himself, quaintly observed, that, if the electors would place his father above Mr. Elliot on the poll, they would soon get rid of Lord Cochrane. His lordship would be brought to a court-martial, and be dismissed from the service of his country, as one of the members for the city of Westminster.

In consequence of this exhortation, the rabble, the riff-raff of Westminster, rose as it were *en masse*; and, cajoled by the artful, but groundless, false, and absurd insinuations of Mr. Sheridan,---insinuations which, at the time that he made them, he knew to be groundless, false,

false, and absurd---actually placed their *minor* idol---for the friend of O'Connor was the *great* deity of their worship---above [illegible] Elliot, a man whose want of public importance should have prevented him from standing forward on such an occasion. Mr. Sheridan's insinuations, it should be observed, related chiefly to what he would do respecting beer, beer-houses, and the *oppressions* of justices of the peace; subjects which, of course, spoke home to the feelings of the men whom he wished to interest in his cause.

Lord Cochrane and Sir Francis Burdett having been declared duly elected, Mr. Sheridan thought proper to announce his intention, that, on the meeting of parliament, he should present a petition to the house of commons, complaining of an undue election and return of Lord Cochrane, on the ground of bribery and corruption, and also on the score of the noble Lord having treated.---Should Mr. Sheridan seriously mean to adopt such a proceeding, it must be very like the devil rebuking sin; as it is pretty well understood, that, had the last parliament continued its sitting, he would have lost his seat on the specific ground here stated. Aware that wits have short memories, we beg leave to refresh the recollection of Mr. Sheridan, by the following extract from a pamphlet, which was addressed to him after the close of the election in 1806:----

"On the first day of election, the outrageous, and perhaps justifiable, insults you met with from your creditors, and the exasperated independent electors, furnished you with a modest hint of their estimation of your pretensions to confidence, and that you stood on the same ground, which you and Mr. Fox had always

 branded

branded with the foulest abuse, against every candidate supported by treasury influence; an influence which you have aided by outrages amounting to an apology for every species of electioneering violence hitherto known in this country.

"The City of Westminster was in a state of construpration for fifteen days, the suffrages of the people were violently seized, and dragged to the hustings, with the same *inclination* and *alacrity* that debtors follow sheriffs' officers to prison. It is true, you had the assistance of many persons of high rank and consideration, connected with you in the pursuit of titles, places, pensions, and contracts; in fine, the most disgraceful scenes of iniquity have been practised to procure your passport to the house of commons, for an election it cannot be called, unless you can get rid of the idea that *choice* is a necessary ingredient in its legal interpretation.

"The mandates of power never assumed such peremptory aspects: the floodgates of corruption were thrown open, and the whole city deluged by public violence, private intrigue, audacious bribery, and unblushing perjury."

This is the man who now talks of petitioning parliament against the return of a rival candidate, on the allegation that *bribery* had been used to promote his election. In 1806, the treasurer of the navy—the sunk, the lost, the *degraded* treasurer of the navy, as the factious and disappointed Paull emphatically termed him---was not without money, and had an abundance of promises at command, with which to delude the credulous mob; but, "*in* place and *out* are different things;" and, with his change of circumstances

stances, Mr. Sheridan's disposition may have changed, and, being [illegible] he may have adopted the virtuous sentiments of [illegible]*ty*. When a man has not the means of being vicious, it is always politic and safe for him to reprehend vice in others.

Lord Cochrane, who, after spending seventeen years in the service of his country, had been returned to parliament as a representative of one of its first cities, experienced the accustomed honours on the occasion. His lordship was carried round Covent Garden, in his open landau, attended by a procession which excited considerable interest. The procession was headed by the high constable of Westminster, mounted, followed by constables on horseback, two and two; after which came, agreeably to custom, a band of marrow-bones and cleavers. To these succeeded a triumphal car, in the shape of a ship of war, with all her cordage and masts complete; richly adorned with his lordship's colours, dark blue, and with banners, bearing the words *Cochrane and Independence*. The car was filled by a great number of his lordships friends, and was provided with an excellent band of music, which contributed greatly to the spirit of the procession. An open carriage and four, in which were some particular friends of his lordship, came next; and was immediately followed by Lord Cochrane's own landau, in which his lordship sat uncovered, attended by two gentlemen. A long train of private carriages closed the procession, which passed down Southampton street, into the Strand, turned towards Charing Cross, and proceeded through the principal streets at the west end of the town. During the whole of the way, the windows were lined with spectators; his lordship was enthusiastically

thusiastically cheered by all the respectable part of the people; and many a fair hand was displayed, in honour of the gallant tar.

His lordship, we understand, is perfectly easy, as to the *threat* of the late treasurer of the navy; and, should the piratical vessel venture to attack the king's ship, we trust that the superior weight of metal, of of the latter, will oblige the former to sheer off with disgrace.

At all events, not for worlds would we feel ourselves the degraded being which the *ci-devant* RIGHT HONOURABLE Richard Brinsley Sheridan, *must* feel himself, *if he possess the feelings of a man*. Not for all the seats which the house of commons contains, highly as we should estimate the honour of one of them, would we have descended to flatter the vitiated notions of the lowest dregs of society, in the mean, the disgraceful, the *contemptible* manner in which Mr. Sheridan did, during the progress of the election. There are boundaries, even in election speeches, which a man who has a proper respect for himself will not pass. But we have done: the *convenient* and *accommodating* principles of Mr. Sheridan render all farther comment unnecessary.—

Since the meeting of the new parliament, Lord Cochrane has given an additional proof of his independence. On the night that the speech was read, on opening the session, his lordship declined voting for either the address or the amendment, neither of them happening to accord with his ideas of justice and propriety.

DOCTOR ROBERT THORNTON.

IT frequently happens that the life of a literary character is so chequered with vicissitudes of fortune, that it excites peculiar interest; and yet the account is usually no other than the struggles of genius, before it becomes universally noticed; and the pangs that superior wisdom and worth often feels from "whips and scorns o'the times." But the sons and daughters of Genius and Misfortune have always the opportunity and the consolation to apply the following maxim of Pope, a maxim certainly not inapposite to the case before us;

> "Envy does merit as its shade pursue,
> "And like a shadow proves the substance true."

Dr. Thornton is the son of a gentleman of great celebrity, Bonnel Thornton, acknowledged to be a man of brilliant wit, and one of the best classic scholars of his day.

It might be supposed, that the son would derive considerable advantage from the superintendance of such a father, in respect to his education, but the fact was, he lost this ingenious man and worthy gentleman when an infant almost in arms; and, therefore, all he could acquire from that alliance was nearness of blood, and in more instances than one, as we shall have occasion to observe, marks of hereditary genius.

The

The care of young Thornton's education devolved partly upon a very intelligent mother, [illegible] univer-sally esteemed for her singular se[illegible]ety, who evinced also several traits of genius; [illegible] partly upon a grandfather, a respectable clergyman, who was him-self no mean author.

There is rarely any thing worthy of moment in the very early part of life. In general, a public education only examines, cultivates, and directs those talents which nature has bestowed.

Nevertheless, it may be proper to notice a peculiar turn in young Thorn[illegible]t has been related of him, that instead of devoting his play hours and holidays to juvenile recreation, he was either in the fields col-lecting wild plants for his garden, or laying gins for birds. He kept a large and curious assórtment of dif-ferent pigeons, besides having collected every species of the English hawk.

At this period an accident had nearly blasted, in their bud, all the fair blossoms of the mother's hope. That lady had just returned from a journey where she had been for the benefit of her health. Fearful of fainting on the road, a two-ounce phial of Eau de Luce was put into the chaise-seat to smell at in case of requiring it. Young Thornton was then come for the vacation to Kensington, where his mother resided with her bro-ther and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Armitage, and having a sore-throat, and slight cold was ordered medicines for it. After so long an absence he was introduced to his mother in bed, who doated on him. The draughts by some mistake of the servant was taken into Mr. Thornton's room, and, to render the confusion worse, placed on the night-table, where, very unguardedly,

was

was the phial of Eau de Luce without a label. The hour of taking the medicine arrived, and young Thornton seized [illegible] Eau de Luce, and poured it out to take it. The smell pointed out the mistake, and after two or three attempts to swallow it, he put it on the table, and said, " he could not take it, there was so much hartshorn in it." He was then chided for a seeming foolish repugnance, when one of his cousins held his nose, and instantly the whole was swallowed. As by miracle, not a particle went the wrong way, or he must have been instantly suffocated. Feeling, immediately, the burning effects on his throat and stomach of this most corrosive caustic, (the caustic volatile alkali,) of which two ounces were swallowed, he dashed the cup upon the floor and cried out, " I am poisoned." With incredible speed, he leapt down the two flights of stairs, and, wildly frantic, he rushed into the kitchen, where the servants seeing him look strangely about, laid hold of him, but not the force of three persons could hinder him from leaping on a dresser, and taking from the shelf a roll of butter, which he furiously devoured to allay the torture in the stomach. Mr. and Mrs. Armitage sent to know, what was the matter, when their daughter returned back word, that two of the servants were on the floor, and that he was gone stark mad, and eating butter. They came down, when they found him lying on the kitchen floor, frequently vomiting a white fluid, with torrents of blood, and pale as death, unable to articulate. The situation of the mother can be better conceived than described ; finding out the mistake made, she had fallen into fits. Some part of the family had locked themselves up, at last one was found to run instantly

to

the nearest apothecary, who came, and thought it was best to bleed the youth and put him to bed. Sir Richard Jebb was sent for, who [illegible] he had never seen such a case, or read of a similar accident, and had he swallowed vinegar to correct the alkali, instead of butter, the benefit would have been great, but as it was, it had saved his life, if he recovered. He was blooded night and morning for a week, and in all thirty times. For three weeks he had nothing else got down for food but linseed oil, and the passage of the throat being closed, was supported in no other way but by injections; notwithstanding, he recovered after about four months confinement, but, as may be naturally imagined, was dreadfully reduced.

As this case is an interesting one to the faculty, the writer of this memoir has made some inquiries respecting the treatment.

The idea of oil, which the Greenlanders eat, as a substitute for food, with glysters, and external stimulants about the throat; and the free use of the lancet in the first stage, were marks of great acumen in Sir Richard Jebb.

He tried nitre as a cooler, but so great was the sensibility of the coats of the stomach, that it created the greatest uneasiness.

The cause of the belief of the refrigerating effects of nitre, is the solution of salts in water, especially nitre, producing a sudden cold in water; a certain proportion, in which nitre makes the chief ingredient, is hence called the frigorific mixture.

The knowledge of its containing oxygen, and hence producing a stimulant effect directly the contrary of cold was unknown to the physicians at that period.

Dr. Percival was the first, we believe, who wrote against the administration of nitre in consumption, as a remedy; which instead of lessening, encreases fever.

Sir Richard Jebb had also the sagacity to find it do harm, and after expressing his surprize, giving it up as a refrigerant. Opium also he found did harm.

During the progress of his attendance, to point out the character of this physician, he thought an emetic might be given with safety, and the bark employed. As might be expected, the mother was frightened at the idea of an emetic, and did not give it. When the doctor came the next day, he asked about the emetic. The confession was made.

"Ounds, madam!" says the doctor, "you have killed your son once, and you mean to kill him a second time, when I have just saved him."

The severity of the remark, however the mother might be reprehensible, and the cruelty of it, threw this amiable lady into fits, and gives some inlight into the rough character of this physician, who was the highest in repute. Never refusing his fee, he had, at that time, received upwards of seventy guineas. The emetic was given, and the success of the practice proved its propriety.

To return to the lady; after the recovery from her first fright and shock at the onset, although for years she had been subject to the asthma in the most dreadful manner, and was at that time confined to her bed, such a turn did it give to her constitution, that, wholly absorbed in the situation of her son, she forgot every ill of her own; and for two years after continued perfectly free of that complaint.

Several

Several similar recoveries in asthma are recorded by physicians.

The doctor has been often since heard to mention, that this illness was the chief cause of his strong love towards natural history.

During his long and tedious confinement, it was not thought prudent to commit to his hands the common books of learned education: but he had Goldsmith's Animated Nature given him to read, which he perused with perhaps more pleasure than others do a novel. When he first tottered to the window, and saw all the gardens in blossom, and full of flowers, he experienced a sensation of delight, such as never can again occur, paradise not having superior charms; and he mentions in his lectures, "that however striking the beautiful variety of colours, these *shades*, even of green are not less diversified; as I once experienced with infinite pleasure and astonishment upon my recovery after a severe fit of illness."

As his constitution was much impaired by this accident, he was indulged in no longer going to a public school, but had Mr. Taylor, the Rector of Kensington, for his private preceptor, and from him he went to the University of Cambridge, where he was entered as a pensioner at Trinity College.

His industry here was uncommonly great, and to use the language of another biographer, "he seemed to follow in himself the maxim laid down by Rousseau, to let your son have many accomplishments, that he may afterwards make his own choice." In order therefore to acquire a knowledge of medicine, he studied under Professor Harwood and Dr. Milner, in Chemistry; and to be a proficient in the law, he attended the law

lectures of Dr. Jowett: he diligently studied the classics, at home, as well as at College, by paying a private tutor, Mr. Hartley of Christ's College; he advanced, at the same time, his knowledge of Natural History, under Professor Martyn; and he pursued his mathematics, under the Rev. Mr. Jones, the tutor of Trinity College. The proficiency he made in anatomy, was also rapid and extraordinary.

His Latin and English declamations at College were much admired, and particularly complimented by the late Master of Trinity, Dr. Hinchcliffe, who wrote to his grandfather on the occasion, and said, that these were composed in a style, and delivered in a manner, that would have done honour to the senate, the bar, or the pulpit. He therefore advised him not to think of physic, and promised to use all his patronage to promote him in the church.

Nevertheless a strong and resistless bias led to the profession of physic, and his elder brother dying, he was left in very independent circumstances, and consequently to his own choice of a profession.

As a proof of his regard to his brother, he had his corse removed from the Hot-wells, Bristol, where he died, to be buried near his father; and he erected a beautiful marble monument in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey, for which he wrote the following elegant inscription:

"Oh, worth! in early youth by all approv'd
Oh, happy genius! ripen'd in thy bloom;
To thee, for every social virtue lov'd,
Thy friend, thy brother, consecrates thy to b."

He

He was now the only surviving child of an affectionate mother, whose health was very precarious, and in order to be near her, instead of going to Edinburgh, he established his residence in Guy's Hospital, and was remarked by Dr. Saunders, lecturer on the practice of physic; Mr. Cline and Mr. Astley Cooper, lecturers on anatomy; Dr. Babington, lecturer on chemistry; and Dr. Haighton, lecturer on midwifery and physiology, to be one of the most assiduous students ever admitted into that hospital.

Instead of dissecting in the common room, taking part of a body, he had a whole subject to his own lot; and he invented a process by which he hindered the labours of the day from becoming putrid, by washing it with nitre dissolved in vinegar.

He engaged Dr. Haighton as a private tutor, and under his direction, he became acquainted with all the bones, muscles, nerves, and made a very large and valuable assemblage of preparations.

Having made himself a proficient in short-hand, he took down, verbatim, all the lectures delivered at this hospital.

Dr. Thompson was, at that time, the lecturer on botany; but labouring under a liver complaint, he could not proceed in the course, which made Mr. Thornton look out for instruction in some other quarter.

Fortunately for him Mr. Curtis, the admirable author of the Flora Londinensis, had, at that time, herbalizing excursions; and he, therefore, entered under this able master as his pupil, and continued the knowledge he had acquired under Professor Martyn, by means of so skilful an instructor.

After four years study in the University of Cambridge, and three years residence in Guy's Hospital, the time came for his taking a bachelor's degree in physic in the university.

A subject for disputation is proposed by the professor, when a thesis is read by the medical student; and so early as the year 1792, Dr. Thornton chose to read before the university, a thesis, "that animal heat arises from oxygen air, absorbed by the blood flowing through the lungs, and taken from the atmosphere; and that in its circuit through the body, it becomes decomposed, liberating the caloric, which is held in a neutralized, or latent state: hence the true cause of all animal heat."

To estimate the value of this remarkable thesis, we must consider the period at which it was written.

The doctrine of phlogiston was then in vogue, and Dr. Crawford had written on the capacities of the arteries and veins to retain heat: but nothing had appeared explanatory of the true office of respiration.

Dr. Hunter in his Introductory Lecture, which was published 1784, says, "respiration we cannot explain, we only know that it is, in fact, essential and necessary to life. Notwithstanding this, when we see all the other parts of the body, and their functions so well accounted for, we cannot but think that respiration is so likewise. And if EVER we should be happy enough to find out clearly the object of this function, we shall, doubtless, as clearly see, that *this organ* is as wisely contrived for an *important office*, as we now see the purpose and importance of the *heart*, and vascular system; which, till the circulation of the blood was discovered, was wholly concealed from us."

Sir

Sir Isaac Pennington, the professor of physic, at first refused a thesis on so obscure a subject: but Doctor Thornton having convinced him he was competent to so arduous a task, it was accepted, and gained the doctor the highest celebrity.

In that thesis he proved, by numerous and well weighed experiments, that the oxygen air was actually taken from the atmosphere during inspiration, and absorbed by the venal blood through the coats of the pulmonary arteries, and that this oxygenated or arterial blood, in the circuit through the body became disoxygenated, or venal, in the transit to the veins, and that the pulsation of the heart and arteries depended upon the stimulus of oxygen in the blood, and was always in proportion to the quantity of this stimulus in the blood.

He maintained that the fixed air, and aqueous fluid discharged in expiration would not account for the loss of oxygen, supposing it to enter into composition in the lungs, with carbon and hydrogen, and that as on the surface of the skin water and fixed air are incessantly discharged, as perspiration, so these did in fact arise as the other perspirable matter.

At this period he had instituted the inhalation of different gases in order to ascertain this point.

He found that the animal heat and vivacity of the frame were increased by the inhalation of vital air, and these were proportionately reduced by an atmosphere of a lower standard.

In the inhalation of inflammable air, which might be done with impunity, he found that still fixed air and water were returned at expiration, which proved his important discoveries.

Dr. Milner, the learned professor of chemistry, in the University of Cambridge, was highly delighted to find a chemical subject, so nearly connected with medicine, proposed in receiving of academic honour, as was the no less learned Dr. Watson, Bishop of Llandaff.

A degree of Bachelor of Physic on the following day was conferred, in open senate, on Doctor Thornton.

He returned back to London loaded with academic honors, when he found that his mother, whose health had been long precarious—probably too anxious for her only surviving child ably acquitting himself on a subject, which, she was informed by all, required maturer years, and probably also participating in that natural dread, which unfledged genius must naturally suffer,—was upon so trying an occasion, seized with such a violent paroxysm of asthma, as removed her from all her sufferings.

Doctor Thornton then travelled for the acquisition of medical science, and having visited the learned universities of Edinburgh, Dublin, and Paris, and all the different water-drinking places in England, he finally settled in London.

At this period, the advancement of chemistry began to throw new lights upon the animal economy, when Dr. Beddoes, the learned professor of chemistry, in Oxford, began the trial of hydrogen gas, or inflammable air, for the cure of consumption.

The hectic fever he explained from the too great attraction of oxygen in the blood of consumptive persons.

Doctor

Doctor Thornton, at this time, conceived high expectations from the employment of oxygen or vital air mixed with atmospheric, and having embraced the Brunonian system, he began its application on an extended scale.

He invented a simple apparatus for the making of vital air from manganese, instead of the more complex machinery by Mr. Watt, of Birmingham; also a pneumatic apparatus to mix, and for the inhalation of the modified airs.

The result of his numerous trials were communicated to Doctor Beddoes, and published by him in a work, entitled, "Considerations relative to Factitious Airs.

In these cases it decidedly appears, that diseases, otherwise deemed incurable, yielded to the power of the factitious airs, as hydrocephalus or dropsy of the brain, amaurosis or gutta serena, deafness, ophthalmia, head-ach, insanity, epilepsy, scrophula, hydrothorax, or water in the chest, asthma, dyspnœa, liver complaints, spasms, ascites, chlorosis, hystena, paralysis, scurvy, leprosy, mortification, croup, &c.

As the application of the airs would be derogatory to the dignity of the physician, and as these new medicines were not to be had at any apothecaries, or chemist's shop in London, Doctor Thornton engaged Mr. Hill, an eminent surgeon and apothecary, in Great Russel Street, to fabricate, under his direction, the airs, and to administer the same.

For the more attentive examination of the effects of these new remedies, Doctor Thornton was present at their application, but the operative part was wholly

confined

confined to Mr. Hill, who conducted as usual the business of an apothecary; and, with Doctor Thornton's usual generosity, he was well rewarded for his trouble: but nothing like a partnership was entered into degrading to Doctor Thornton.

Science, not quackery, having been the object of his labours, and these not having been properly understood even by the faculty (who seemed very diligently, not to say suspiciously, to watch every movement of the doctor on the occasion) as a vindication of his introduction of the factitious airs into the practice of physic, Dr. Thornton published a work entitled, The Philosophy of Medicine; or Medical Extracts on the Nature of Health and Disease, including the Laws governing the Animal Economy, and the Doctrines of Pneumatic Medicine: but he did not put his name to this work; the title says, By a Friend to Improvements.

In the dedication, which is to Sir Joseph Banks, the author briefly sums up his intentions.

This work, it is presumed will be found amusing to the philosopher who considers the human frame as a part, and certainly not the least interesting part, of natural history.

It places man in the centre, and shews his relationship to the several objects which surround him.

In the first volume, is displayed the progress of medicine and chemistry; and the relationship we stand in to the air we breathe.

The second volume discloses our relationship to light, heat, food, exercise, and all the variety of mental emotion.

These two volumes include the history of direct stimuli,

muli, being an explanation of the first law of the animal economy, "that health is maintained by a due proportion of stimuli," with the history of these diseases arising from the superabundance of natural stimuli and the proper method of cure.

The third volume embraces the consideration of indirect stimuli; as impure air, darkness, cold, hunger, rest and the different sedative passions of the mind which are no otherways stimuli than as they relate to the second law, "than an accumulation of illebrity ensues from a deficiency of direct stimuli;" and this volume embraces the diseases of asthenia, or weakness.

The fourth volume is employed in the consideration of the third law, "that the excessive action of stimuli exhausts the irritable principle in the blood;" and here the action of different poisons is fully considered with the methodus medendi, or antidote.

The fifth volume is a continuation of the same subject, shewing more particularly the rise and progress of pneumatic medicine.

This work* which has already run through four editions,

* All the reviewers were unanimous in celebrating its praises, amongst whom the following passages may be selected.

"Thus have we given a brief analysis of the Philosophy of Medicine, or Medical Extracts, which will be found of the highest use to all those who are desirous of *preserving and regaining* the invaluable blessing of health. It is the best work on the subject in any language." *Analytical Review.*

"In concluding our review, we must observe, that the very able author of the Philosophy of Medicine, has rendered an important service to the profession, and mankind in general, by bringing

editions made a considerable impression on the public mind.

We shall here relate an anecdote respecting the first meeting of the editor of the English Review and Doctor Thornton, after he had paid him the very handsome encomium mentioned underneath.

Mr. Coleman, the veterinary professor, invited a large company to dinner, amongst whom were these two gentlemen. After dinner Dr. Thompson,* who was author of the critique, resounded in the praise of the Philosophy of Medicine, and attributed the writing to Dr. Darwin. After he had gone on for some time in the just commendation of this excellent work, Mr. Coleman said, " Give me leave to introduce you to the real author of the work you so much admire," pointing to Dr. Thornton, " and let me add that my present wife, niece to Mr. Wathen Phipps, the oculist, was given over by all the most eminent of the fa-

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bringing into a more connected point of view, and affording a more clear and satisfactory detail of the numerous facts and reasonings which form the basis of the present improved state of medical science." *Critical Review.*

"The Philosophy of Medicine is the production of a mind learned, comprehensive, candid; open to, and desirous of, information; cautious in investigation, yet resolute to embrace the *truth*; a friend to mankind; ardent in his hopes, as in his efforts, for increasing the stores of knowledge; particularly anxious for the cause of pneumatic medicine, showing evidently that temperament which usually accompanies genius." *English Review.*

* The memoir of this gentleman is given in vol. ii. page 68.

culty, when her life was preserved by the inhalation of the vital air."*

Doctor Cruikshank, the élève of Doctor Hunter, lecturer with Doctor Baillie, on anatomy, who was also no incompetent judge, in all companies used to speak of this work; and in a treatise on perspiration, he says, "that although the author is unknown from a singular diffidence, he must be allowed on all hands, to possess a knowledge which would do credit to the first medical character in England."

The cure of the Rev. Mr. Attwood by the vital air, after his leg had been condemned to be taken off by Mr. Cruikshank,† &c. brought those two gentlemen together; when Dr. Thornton thanked him for his handsome public commendation of the Philosophy of Medicine. Dr. Cruikshank was astonished, and paid him many handsome compliments on his extensive knowledge. "Your vital air (said he) has done wonders. I prophesy your enemies, like mine, will be great, but you will overcome them;" and, ever after, when any incurable case‡ occurred, he always referred the patients to Doctor Thornton, and continued his friendship towards him until he died.

Doctor Thornton, at this period, formed a plan of

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* This case was drawn up by her brother-in-law, Mr. Wathen Phipps, and published by Dr. Beddoes, and may be found in the Philosophy of Medicine, vol i. p. 497.

† This interesting case is recorded in the Philosophy of Medicine, vol. i. p. 528.

‡ Vide the case of Mrs. Frith, in the Philosophy of Medicine, vol. i. p. 542.

elucidating, by coloured engravings, all the parts of the human body; and as the first fasciculus of this useful and magnificent work, he published a front and back view of the human heart, in colours, of the natural size, with an outline of the same, and letter-press explanatory of the names of the vessels of the heart, its compartments; the mode of the circulation of the blood, the change of the blood in the pulmonary arteries, now first clearly exhibited to view, by the oxygen air, &c.

This fasciculus attracted much admiration; and when we compare all that preceded it on the subject of anatomy in others, we must acknowledge that nothing in the least came up to it. Indeed, they so exactly resemble nature, that they supersede, in a great measure, the cruel necessity of having recourse to observation from the once living body, peacefully consigned to the earth, and again shamefully dug up by people impiously denominated *resurrection men*; who live by such daring and sacrilegious robbery, which must create in the whole community universal anxiety and inquietude at the loss of every relative.

These plates were publicly exhibited to their pupils by Sir Christopher Pegg, a most amiable man and able physician, reader on anatomy at Oxford, and Dr. Cruikshank in the school of Dr. Hunter, and held out as models of perfection.

We lament that this splendid and useful anatomical work, which was to contain twenty fasciculi, has gone on so slowly, for only at present this single splendid number has been published.

The enemies of Doctor Thornton took occasion to spread abroad a report, that he administers only the gases

gases in disease, and called him in derision the "Air-Doctor," the fit companion of the "*Water-Doctors*;" and it required some skill for him to avoid this false imputation.

A vacancy occurred in the Mary-le-bone General Dispensary, which had been notoriously neglected, the charity being actually in debt. Doctor Thornton became a candidate for the situation of physician to this institution, and was unanimously elected. His first attempt was to draw up a pathetic appeal to the public to promote the object of the charity.

This eloquent address drew tears from every reader, and had so powerful an effect on the human heart, that avarice opened her stores, and upon the circulation of this appeal to the public, numerous were the nobility and gentry, who personally came with their free-will offerings.

The funds were soon more than ample for all the purposes of the charity, and Doctor Thornton next turned his attention towards the better regulation of this kind of establishment.

It was usual for the afflicted poor, to assemble in one common room; where there were persons returning thanks for safe delivery with infants in their arms, children to be inoculated, and under inoculation, hooping-cough, measles, croup, itch, and every infection; consequently the applicants for charity, who asked "for bread received a serpent," and the population was diminished instead of increased.

This grievance was rectified by Doctor Thornton, who appointed particular days for the coming of persons under small-pox, measles, hooping-cough, and eruptive complaints; he also attended an hour before

fore the surgeon and midwife---and so attentive was Doctor Thornton to this charity, that he is said to have taken down the symptoms of every case which occurred in the languages of the respective complainants, afterwards their answers to his questions; and several thousand cases having come under his observation, it is hoped, that he will hereafter publish the expected results of so minute an enquiry.

In this situation, as physician to the Marylebone General Dispensary, he made the discovery of the tincture of Foxglove with antimonial wine, being a specific in that dreadful disease, the scarlet fever, with ulcerated sore throat.

After four years diligent attention to this charity, every year presenting it with the salary which was paid him, finding that his private practice was greatly augmented, and now engaged in an extensive botanical work, he relinquished the appointment, amidst universal regret; and in his place were chosen Doctor Garnett, lecturer at the royal institution, and Doctor Temple of Bedford square, the increased number of patients requiring two physicians.

When he retired from the active exertions of this post, at a general meeting of the directors and governors of the St. Marylebone General Dispensary, it was unanimously resolved, "that a piece of plate should be presented to Dr. Thornton bearing this vote:---

"That Doctor Thornton has uniformly acted for the interest of this charitable institution, serving the office of physician gratuitously, upwards of four years; that his attention to the sick has been great, his humanity conspicuous, and his success in curing disease remarkable; and that the thanks of the directors and gover-

nors